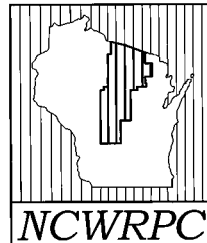

Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan

2009-2013

Effective January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013

Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation
Department Managed Facilities

Also covering some local governments within Oneida County



Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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ABSTRACT

- TITLE:** ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
2009-2013 Effective January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2013
- SUBJECT:** This report 1) Assesses the existing recreation system in Oneida County; 2) Identifies recreation needs based upon public input, past plans, and recreation standards; and 3) Establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years.
- Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids to purchase land and to add facilities to existing outdoor recreation lands. The Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan is required to apply for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and Wisconsin Stewardship Grant funding.
- Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.
- DATE:** April 2009
- AGENCY:** Oneida County Forestry, Land and Outdoor Recreation Department
Oneida County Courthouse
PO Box 400
Rhinelander WI 54501-0400
- CONTACT:** John Bilogan, Administrator
Oneida County Forestry, Land and Outdoor Recreation Department
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- DISCLAIMER:** This plan was prepared by the staff of the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission under agreement with the above contact.

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ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Outdoor Recreation Surveys
- B. NCWRPC Generated SCORP 2005–2010 Summary
- C. Public Comment Period Emailed and Mailed Remarks
- D. Facility Development Standards
- E. State and Federal Financial Assistance Programs

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this recreation plan is to provide continued direction toward meeting the current and future recreation needs of the county. This is accomplished through an inventory and analysis of outdoor recreational facilities, and the establishment of recommendations to meet identified needs.

Adoption of this plan by the Oneida County Board and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR), will continue eligibility of the county and its local units of government for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), and Stewardship Funds. Adoption by all municipalities is not necessary if they wish to cooperate with Oneida County to use this plan for grant applications. Local government grant applications have a better chance of approval if Oneida County applies on their behalf.

Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.

1.2 STATUTORY BASE

This Outdoor Recreation Plan was prepared pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §23.30 Outdoor Recreation Program. This section serves to “promote, encourage, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive long-range plan to acquire, maintain, and develop for public use, those areas of the state best adapted to the development of a comprehensive system of state and local outdoor recreation facilities and services...”

1.3 PLAN COMPONENTS

This plan addresses outdoor recreation needs that are satisfied by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD) maintained facilities. Other public facilities are also listed to provide a more complete view of all public facilities available in Oneida County.

Background information on Oneida County was compiled to develop an understanding of the environmental and social characteristics of the county and their meaning for outdoor recreation. An inventory of existing recreational facilities exists in Chapters 3 and 4 of this plan.

The existing recreation system was analyzed to determine current and potential future deficiencies through the year 2013. A combination of public comments, FLORD analysis, standards analysis, and the Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) were utilized to define recreational and open space needs.

The recommendations are general strategies and five-year action programs for recreation facility development. A series of possible tools to aid implementation of these recommendations are set forth in Chapter 9 – Provisions For Updating. The plan concludes with a note on updating to insure that it remains relevant to the needs of the county over the entire five-year span.

1.4 PAST PLANS

Oneida County first began recreation planning in 1976 when "An Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oneida County and the City of Rhinelander" was prepared by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. This plan was updated in 1981 by "An Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oneida County and the Town of Minocqua and the Town of Three Lakes," which was prepared by Planning Consultant, Craig Johhanesen. Since then, the Towns of Cassian, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Minocqua, Monico, Newbold, Nokomis, Sugar Camp, Three Lakes, and Woodruff have all developed their own Town Recreation Plans as well. This plan has been written to follow the previous Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan covering the period 2004-2008. In addition, the findings of the 2005-2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) are utilized in the development of this county plan.

Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan

In 2002, Oneida County developed this bike route plan with assistance from NCWRPC. This plan established a number of scenic, on-road bike routes throughout the County.

Proposed trails and on-road routes from this plan are shown on Map 2.

Oneida County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan

The mission of the County Forest is to manage, conserve and protect the natural resources within the county forest on a sustainable basis for present and future generations. The Plan contains information about forest resource planning, outdoor recreation planning, silvicultural practices, aesthetic management zones, trails and access control, biological communities, and wildlife species that exist within the county forest.

This 2006 – 2021 document was used to inventory existing recreation facilities shown on Map 3.

Oneida County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2006-2011

The Oneida County Land Conservation Committee developed this plan in 2006. The plan provides an inventory of the County's natural resources and a series of goals and objectives intended to improve and protect these resources in the future. Goal 3: Improve forest management to promote productivity of forest products, protect wildlife habitat, water quality, and provide recreational opportunities – has one objective that relates to outdoor recreation: Objective C: Reduce erosion and habitat degradation caused by unauthorized ATV use. Under this objective is one activity to be completed by various agencies: 1. Assist ATV clubs by providing educational materials for users.

North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan

This 2004 document is intended to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway system for the North Central Wisconsin Region. Potential trails are identified and an improvement description was created for each county that trails exist in to facilitate implementation.

Facilities along the new STH 17 route around Rhinelander will link with other existing and proposed routes in the City of Rhinelander to serve a number of bicyclists traveling to and from shopping areas, the new YMCA, or the new hospital. The proposed Rhinelander – Crandon trail is a multiuse trail paralleling USH 8. The proposed trail would utilize Highway 8's wide right-of-way but be grade-separated. Another off road trail is envisioned in the USH 45 corridor, utilizing an abandoned rail right-of-way as much as possible. This route would intersect with the Highway 8 trail as it travels completely through Oneida County between Langlade County's system and Eagle River / Vilas County. Also on this route is Three Lakes. An important goal of the Oneida County plan is linking Three Lakes and Rhinelander. The main route between them is County Highway A, which is not well suited for bicycling and has a constricted right-of-way. However, there is an abandoned local road that has been proposed as a trail. Locals have done considerable groundwork on this proposal and prepared a transportation enhancement grant application, which was turned down. This plan recommends implementation of this concept and encourages WisDOT to fund this application. Both of Oneida's Rustic Roads are included routes, and some existing town roads provide the connection to Price County. A short segment of STH 70 should be improved to better accommodate bicycles between the Rustic Roads in order to complete a "Rustic Roads loop" and facilitate access from this area to Vilas County Highway F bike route. A variety of other on and off road routes are proposed throughout Oneida County.

Healthy People Healthy Oneida County 2007-2011

Healthy People Healthy Oneida County began in 1995 as a community wide initiative with the goal of establishing an ongoing process for identifying and addressing health needs in Oneida County. This new plan is part of the ongoing planning process and commitment to the community. The intent of the plan is to foster successful partnership of many facets of the community in order to improve the community's health.

The ***Nutrition/Physical Activity*** health priority can be reinforced by providing outdoor recreation facilities that allow Oneida County residents and visitors the opportunity to be active.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2005-2010

Completed in August 2006, this plan attempts to classify, measure, and ultimately provide for the preferences and needs of a statewide recreating public. Many factors, from changing demographic and land use trends, to recreational supply, and conflict with other recreation uses, affect the quality, supply, and demand for outdoor recreation.

This plan is summarized in Attachment B, and is what the State will use to determine where to approve nature-based grants.

State Trails Network Plan

This 2001 document clarifies the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) role and strategy in the provision of all types of trails. The plan identifies a series of potential trail corridors that would link existing trails, public lands, natural features, and communities. This statewide network of interconnected trails would be owned and maintained by municipalities, private entities, and partnerships of the two. Preserving transportation corridors, such as old rail lines, is specifically discussed as a very important strategy in the creation of recreational and alternative transportation corridors. These trails are shown on Map 2.

Segment 15—Ashland to Rhinelander

This potential trail would connect Ashland with Woodruff, Minocqua, Rhinelander, and finally to Crandon. From Woodruff/Minocqua, an old abandoned rail corridor near the route of State Highway 47 may possibly provide the opportunity to connect the City of Rhinelander. If the rail corridor is not intact, it may be feasible to use roadways and existing trails, since the northern half of the route is through the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest.

Segment 19—Langlade Co to Michigan

This abandoned rail corridor links the State of Michigan with the Mountain Bay Trail near Eland in Marathon County. It passes through a few state wildlife areas and some county forests. This corridor also links to the proposed Three Lakes to Rhinelander and Crandon to Tomahawk abandoned rail corridors in Oneida County.

Segment 68—Rhinelander to Three Lakes

This abandoned rail corridor would link these two communities by an off-road connection. At Rhinelander, links to the Washburn to Fond du Lac corridor, and at Three Lakes links to the Langlade County to Michigan corridor are possible. Significant bike trail interest has occurred in Oneida County. Strong support can be expected for this connector trail.

Segment 69—Tomahawk to Crandon

This abandoned corridor would link these two communities by an off-road connector. This corridor intersects the Langlade County to Michigan corridor at Pelican Lake and links the Argonne to Shawano corridor in the east with the Tomahawk to Wausau corridor in the west.

2004 Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

The Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests were combined into one forest in 1998. This 2004 document revised inconsistent policies between the two forests and provides direction for resource management over the next 10 to 15 years. Even though there is not National forest (the Forest) within Oneida County, any recreation policy change in the Forest will affect Oneida County because of its close proximity.

In 2004, the Forest revised its forest management plan. The revised plan contains a consistent ATV policy for both sides of the Forest

- No off-road or off trail use allowed (implemented on June 14, 2004).
- New trail construction allowed for up to 100 miles of trail on the Chequamegon side, and up to 85 total miles on the Nicolet side.
- All roads and trails closed to ATV use unless posted open with signs.
- All trails and Forest Service roads will be closed to ATV's every year from March 15 through April 30. Township designated roads are still open.
- No Intensive Use ("play areas") allowed on the Forest (Open 26 play area closed on June 14, 2004).
- Emergency closures can be issued locally where resources are being damaged or abused, or there are safety concerns.

At the present time, there are no Forest Service designated trails or roads on the Nicolet side of the forest. The Forest Service has started an implementation process for opening trails and roads to ATV use.

Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056

This report is a comprehensive inventory of the special places that will be critical to meet future conservation and outdoor recreation needs for the next fifty years. Some of the questions asked to guide creation of this report were: Which lands and waters remain unprotected that will be critical for conserving our plants and animals and their habitats? What gaps exist now (and will likely emerge in the future) in providing abundant and satisfying outdoor recreation? How can we most effectively build upon the state's existing investment in protected lands to fill conservation and recreation gaps? What special places will our children and grandchildren wish we had protected? The study focused on identifying what of our state or regionally significant green infrastructure remains to be protected.

The Land Legacy report recommends protection of these lands by using federal, state, and local funding opportunities; along with: possibly creating new kinds of incentives for landowners, working to craft comprehensive plans, or offering different types of technical assistance.

Prioritization of Land Legacy Areas is described in SCORP Chapter 3 located in Attachment B.

Each Oneida County Legacy Area is summarized below with 5 stars representing the highest level for that category:

CN Chequamegon-Nicolet

National Forest

Size Large
 Protection Initiated Substantial
 Protection Remaining Limited
 Conservation Significance ☆☆☆☆☆
 Recreation Potential ☆☆☆☆☆

MF Monico Forest

Size Medium
 Protection Initiated Limited
 Protection Remaining Substantial
 Conservation Significance ☆
 Recreation Potential ☆☆☆

NA Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest

Size Large
 Protection Initiated Substantial
 Protection Remaining Limited
 Conservation Significance ☆☆☆☆☆
 Recreation Potential ☆☆☆☆☆

SO Somo River

Size Medium
 Protection Initiated Moderate
 Protection Remaining Moderate
 Conservation Significance ☆
 Recreation Potential ☆☆☆

SQ Squirrel and Tomahawk Rivers

Size Medium
 Protection Initiated Moderate
 Protection Remaining Moderate
 Conservation Significance ☆☆☆☆
 Recreation Potential ☆☆☆

TM Thunder Marsh

Size Medium
 Protection Initiated Substantial
 Protection Remaining Limited
 Conservation Significance ☆☆☆☆
 Recreation Potential ☆

UW Upper Wisconsin River

Size Large
 Protection Initiated Moderate
 Protection Remaining Moderate
 Conservation Significance ☆☆☆☆
 Recreation Potential ☆☆☆☆

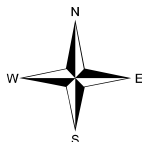
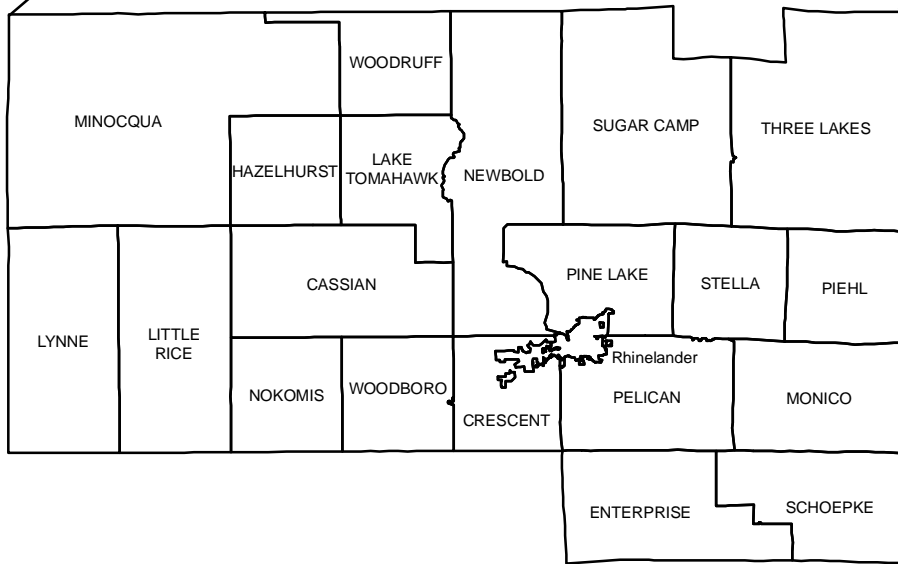
UP Upper Wolf River

Size Large
 Protection Initiated Substantial
 Protection Remaining Moderate
 Conservation Significance ☆☆☆☆☆
 Recreation Potential ☆☆☆☆☆

WF Willow Flowage

Size Medium
 Protection Initiated Substantial
 Protection Remaining Limited
 Conservation Significance ☆☆☆
 Recreation Potential ☆☆☆☆☆

Map 1
General Location
 Oneida County, Wisconsin



This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only. NCWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

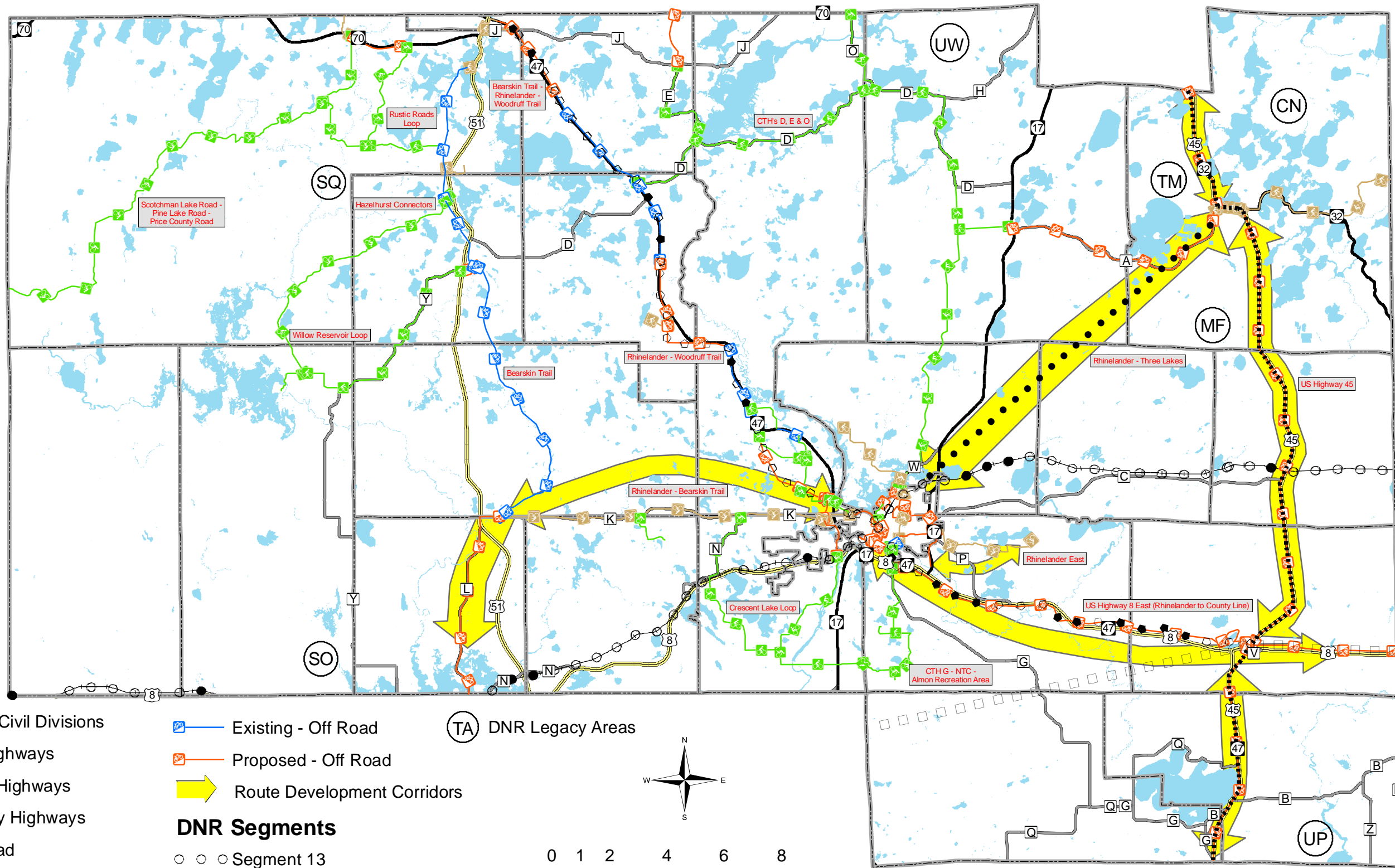


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DRAFT

Map 2 Potential Trails and Legacy Areas from Past Plans Oneida County, Wisconsin



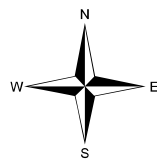
- Minor Civil Divisions
- US Highways
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Railroad
- Water

Bike Trails

- Trail Route Name
- Existing - On Road
- Proposed - On Road

- Existing - Off Road
 - Proposed - Off Road
 - Route Development Corridors
- ### DNR Segments
- ○ ○ Segment 13
 - ◇ ◇ ◇ Segment 15
 - Segment 19
 - ● ● Segment 68
 - □ □ Segment 69

(TA) DNR Legacy Areas



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Source: WI DNR, NCWRPC



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Chapter 2

DESCRIPTION OF ONEIDA COUNTY

2.1 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

This section describes the physical features that make up Oneida County. Recreation planners use this kind of data to determine which resources to develop and which resources to protect or preserve.

Geography

Oneida County is located in the north central part of the state and is well known for its physical and natural qualities. This area was once part of a vast forest region covering much of the Great Lakes area. Today, Oneida County serves as a popular vacation area and community center of the north. The physical resources are a key factor in the economic structure of the area evidenced by the number of paper and wood industry factories in the County. The County is easily accessible by both highway and airport. See Map 1 for Oneida County's location within the State of Wisconsin. Oneida County is adjacent to Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Price, and Vilas Counties, and is comprised of twenty towns and one city.

Topography

The surface features of Oneida County have resulted from the various stages of glaciation during the last ice age. Oneida County's landscape is primarily gently rolling, heavily wooded countryside dotted with many small block lakes. The entire county lies within what geologists call the "Northern Highlands" physiographic region of Wisconsin. The topography is rather uniform in elevation ranging between 1,460 feet above sea level in the southeastern part of the county to 1,735 feet above sea level in the northwestern part of the county. The drainage pattern in the county is irregular and characterized by a number of lakes, bogs, and marshes.

Surface Water

Oneida County has a total surface area of approximately 790,963 acres, however, 71,283 acres (9.01%) is comprised of surface water. The majority of this area is comprised of 426 named lakes and 701 unnamed lakes totaling 66,545 acres and 2,056 acres respectively. The largest natural lake is Lake Tomahawk at 3,627 acres and the largest artificial water body is the Willow Reservoir at 5,135 acres. The deepest lake is Clear Lake, which measures approximately 100 feet at its deepest point. The County contains 830 miles of streams, of which about 192 miles are classified as trout streams. The Three Lakes area holds the world's largest chain of freshwater lakes. While most of the County drains into the Wisconsin River, a small area in the southeast drains into the Wolf River. Oneida County's extensive water resource provides a great deal of recreational opportunities such as boating, sailing, skiing, fishing, swimming, canoeing, and ice fishing as well as great aesthetic value. From the tranquil lakes of the northern part of the county to the wild untouched area of the Willow Flowage, Oneida County has a wide variety of options for water recreation. This extensive water

resource provides a great deal of recreational opportunity like boating, sailing, skiing, fishing, swimming, canoeing and ice fishing.

Groundwater

Even though, the quality of water varies somewhat by aquifer, the groundwater is generally considered to be of good quality in Oneida County. Groundwater in the sand and gravel aquifer is higher in iron and more easily polluted than groundwater in the bedrock aquifer. Water hardness varies from mostly soft to moderately hard in both the sand and gravel and bedrock aquifers.

Soils

The soils of Oneida County are primarily comprised of eroded glacial deposits. Considerable variation occurs in soil types over short distances partly due to the variety of materials carried by the ice. Soil properties are important considerations when planning and developing recreation facilities. To help evaluate soils, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) publishes a Soil Survey Report. The most recent soil survey for Oneida County was completed and issued in February 1993. Soil surveys contain an abundance of information on appropriate site planning in respect to soil suitability and developmental properties by soil type. The soil types identified are to be evaluated for a wide range of recreational uses including the following:

- wetland refuges for waterfowl
- wildlife management
- open space or nature study areas
- parks
- athletic fields
- designated farmland preservation areas
- ski areas
- golf courses
- campsites, hiking trails, and picnic areas
- woodlands
- hunting preserves
- manmade ponds

Climate

Oneida County's climate type is in the continental classification. The summers have warm but not excessively hot days and cool nights. Winters are long, cold, and snowy. Mean annual precipitation is almost 30.66 inches. Snow cover on the ground and ice cover on the lakes lasts from December to April. The growing season generally spans late May to early September, for an average frost-free growing season of 124 days. Prevailing winds come out of the northwest from late fall through spring, and from the southwest during the remainder of the year. Winter in Oneida County is very conducive to snowmobiling and skiing due to its long duration and frequent occurrences of fresh snow. Summer provides a comfortable environment for camping, fishing, and other activities.

2.2 SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

This section describes the social and economic factors that shape Oneida County. This type of information can give a general feeling of how trends in recreational needs might be changing, because the residents are changing. Developing an understanding of these characteristics and their changes will help direct future planning efforts in the appropriate directions.

Matching social characteristics from this section with different recreation demands as shown in SCORP Chapter 2, will start to reinforce what recreational facilities to provide.

Population

Current population, seasonal population estimates, population projections, and public participation results are all important criteria to use when considering the supply of recreational facilities. This section lists and describes the current, seasonal, and projected population levels for county and neighborhood park facility demands.

Oneida County added 1,824 residents from 2000 to 2007, growing to 38,600. All of this growth came from net migration, which added 2,400 new residents. With 576 more residents dying than being born, that cuts Oneida's population growth to 1,824.

Table 1 shows historical permanent and estimated seasonal populations for Oneida County municipalities. Seasonal populations were calculated from U.S. Census data. The number of seasonal housing units was multiplied by the average household size of the permanently occupied housing units in that municipality.

The general population pattern county-wide in Table 1 shows that from 1990 to 2000 the growth center was centered around Minocqua. All towns touching the Town of Minocqua gained residents. A steep decline in residents occurred in Rhinelander and several towns surrounding it. Two nearby towns gained slightly. Pine Lake gained over 100 people and Crescent gained 31 people. All towns on the eastern border of Oneida County all had increasing populations. Three Lakes gained 79, Piehl gained 28, Monico gained 97, and Schoepke gained 90 people.

Table 1 **Permanent and Seasonal Population**
For Oneida County Municipalities

| Community | 1990 Seasonal + Permanent = Total Pop. | 2000 Seasonal + Permanent = Total Pop. | # and % Change |
|------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| Oneida County | 27,482 + 31,679 = 59,161 | 24,404 + 35,868 = 60,272 | 1,111 / 1.9% |
| Rhineland, City | 53 + 7,427 = 7,480 | 80 + 7,177 = 7,257 | -223 / -3.0% |
| Cassian, Town | 1,680 + 668 = 2,348 | 1,391 + 962 = 2,353 | 5 / 0.2% |
| Crescent, Town | 824 + 1,790 = 2,614 | 578 + 2,067 = 2,645 | 31 / 1.2% |
| Enterprise, Town | 681 + 271 = 952 | 553 + 274 = 827 | -125 / -13.1% |
| Hazelhurst, Town | 1,575 + 927 = 2,502 | 1,342 + 1,267 = 2,609 | 107 / 4.3% |
| Lake Tomahawk, Town | 1,407 + 851 = 2,258 | 1,195 + 1,036 = 2,231 | -27 / -1.2% |
| Little Rice, Town | 708 + 196 = 904 | 648 + 314 = 962 | 58 / 6.4% |
| Lynne, Town | 414 + 157 = 571 | 458 + 210 = 668 | 97 / 17% |
| Minocqua, Town | 4,772 + 3,486 = 8,258 | 4,360 + 4,853 = 9,213 | 955 / 11.6% |
| Monico, Town | 183 + 294 = 477 | 210 + 364 = 574 | 97 / 20.3% |
| Newbold, Town | 2,817 + 2,281 = 5,098 | 2,160 + 2,710 = 4,870 | -228 / -4.5% |
| Nokomis, Town | 1,174 + 999 = 2,173 | 1,046 + 1,363 = 2,409 | 236 / 10.9% |
| Pelican, Town | 918 + 3,202 = 4,120 | 752 + 2,902 = 3,654 | -466 / -11.3% |
| Piehl, Town | 92 + 66 = 158 | 93 + 93 = 186 | 28 / 17.7% |
| Pine Lake, Town | 731 + 2,445 = 3,176 | 676 + 2,605 = 3,281 | 105 / 3.3% |
| Schoepke, Town | 924 + 378 = 1,302 | 1,040 + 352 = 1,392 | 90 / 6.9% |
| Stella, Town | 293 + 525 = 818 | 188 + 625 = 813 | -5 / -0.6% |
| Sugar Camp, Town | 1,802 + 1,375 = 3,177 | 1,431 + 1,781 = 3,212 | 35 / 1.1% |
| Three Lakes, Town | 4,285 + 2,004 = 6,289 | 4,061 + 2,307 = 6,368 | 79 / 1.3% |
| Woodboro, Town | 796 + 703 = 1,499 | 581 + 685 = 1,266 | -233 / -15.5% |
| Woodruff, Town | 1,333 + 1,634 = 2,967 | 1,332 + 1,921 = 3,253 | 286 / 9.6% |

Source: U.S. Census & NCWRPC

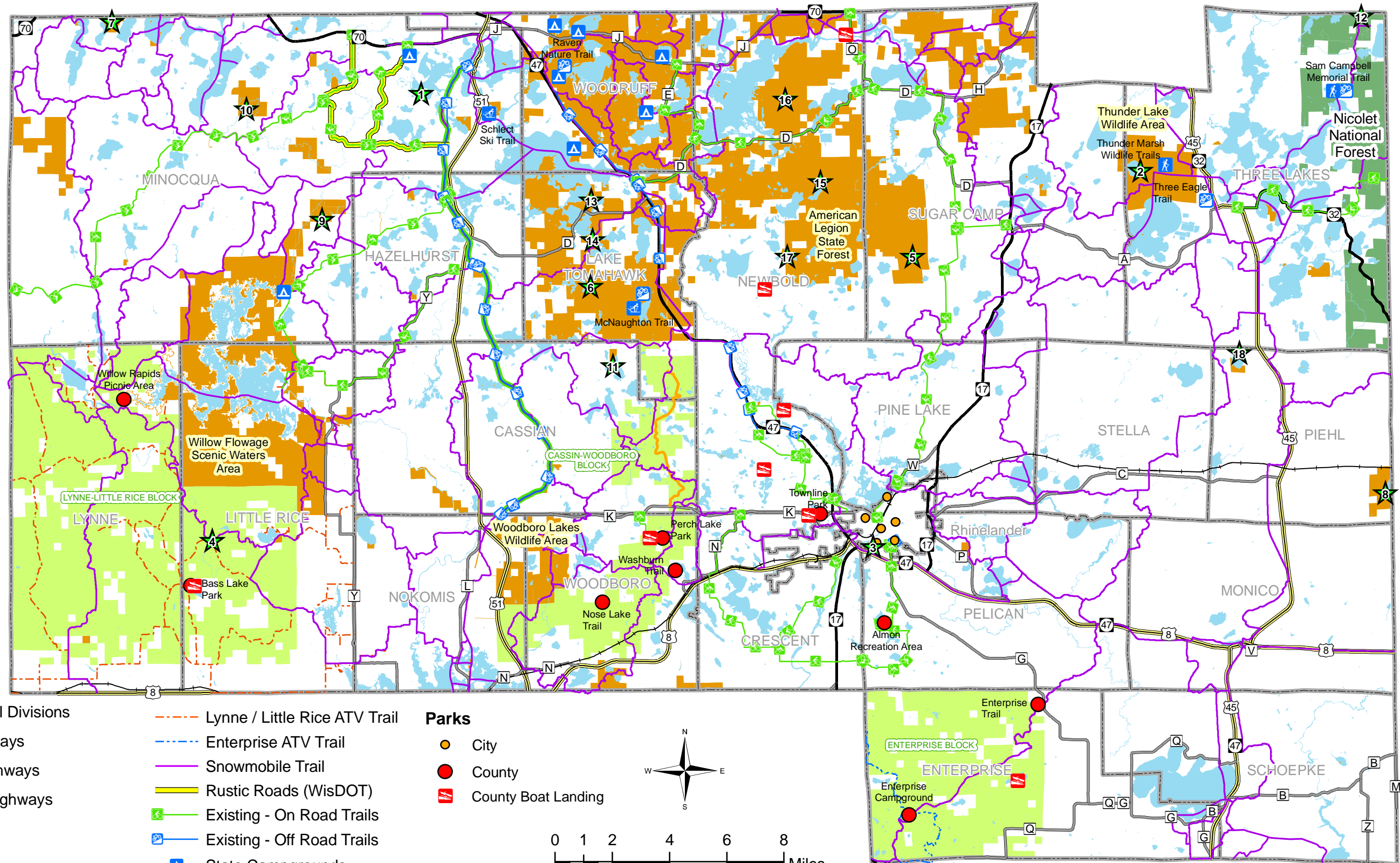
Table 2 **Population Projections**
For Oneida County Municipalities 2005-2025

| Community | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 | # and % Change |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|
| Oneida County | 37,515 | 38,284 | 38,846 | 39,254 | 39,674 | 2,159 / 5.8% |
| Rhineland, City | 7,908 | 7,677 | 7,428 | 7,171 | 6,937 | -971 / -12.3% |
| Cassian, Town | 1,032 | 1,100 | 1,159 | 1,211 | 1,261 | 229 / 22.2% |
| Crescent, Town | 2,093 | 2,128 | 2,152 | 2,168 | 2,185 | 92 / 4.4% |
| Enterprise, Town | 267 | 261 | 254 | 247 | 241 | -26 / -9.7% |
| Hazelhurst, Town | 1,357 | 1,445 | 1,521 | 1,588 | 1,652 | 295 / 21.7% |
| Lake Tomahawk, Town | 1,212 | 1,264 | 1,307 | 1,344 | 1,380 | 168 / 13.9% |
| Little Rice, Town | 341 | 368 | 391 | 412 | 431 | 90 / 26.4% |
| Lynne, Town | 212 | 214 | 215 | 215 | 215 | 3 / 1.4% |
| Minocqua, Town | 5,176 | 5,484 | 5,752 | 5,985 | 6,209 | 1,033 / 20% |
| Monico, Town | 375 | 386 | 394 | 401 | 408 | 33 / 8.8% |
| Newbold, Town | 2,837 | 2,963 | 3,068 | 3,158 | 3,245 | 408 / 14.4% |
| Nokomis, Town | 1,435 | 1,505 | 1,565 | 1,616 | 1,666 | 231 / 16.1% |
| Pelican, Town | 2,445 | 2,418 | 2,382 | 2,342 | 2,306 | -139 / -5.7% |
| Piehl, Town | 97 | 101 | 105 | 108 | 111 | 14 / 14.4% |
| Pine Lake, Town | 2,737 | 2,759 | 2,768 | 2,768 | 2,770 | 33 / 1.2% |
| Schoepke, Town | 340 | 330 | 319 | 307 | 297 | -43 / -12.6% |
| Stella, Town | 675 | 715 | 750 | 781 | 810 | 135 / 20% |
| Sugar Camp, Town | 1,858 | 1,934 | 1,997 | 2,050 | 2,102 | 244 / 13.1% |
| Three Lakes, Town | 2,391 | 2,444 | 2,484 | 2,513 | 2,544 | 153 / 6.4% |
| Woodboro, Town | 667 | 651 | 634 | 615 | 598 | -69 / -10.3% |
| Woodruff, Town | 2,060 | 2,137 | 2,201 | 2,254 | 2,306 | 246 / 11.9% |

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, 2003

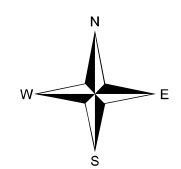
Over the 20-year period shown in Table 2, the Minocqua area will gain over 1,000 new residents. The towns of Woodruff, Hazelhurst, Cassian, and Nokomis will all gain over 200 people. Rhineland will continue its population decline by losing almost 1,000 people. Of the towns surrounding Rhineland, only Pelican is projected to lose people.

Map 3 Outdoor Recreation Oneida County, Wisconsin



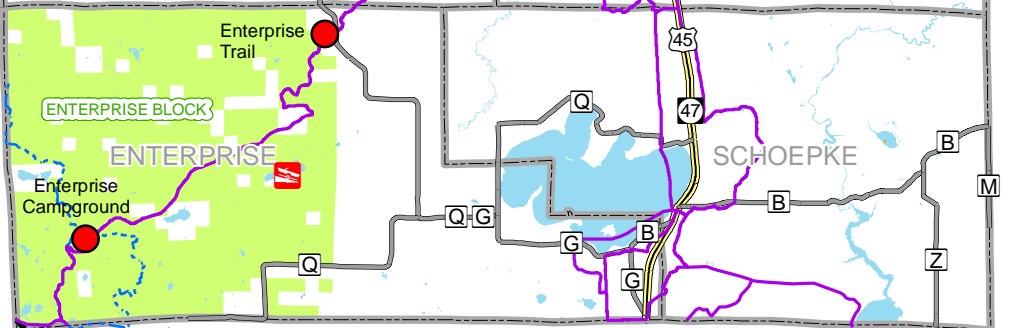
- Minor Civil Divisions
- US Highways
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Railroad
- Water
- Federal Land
- State Land
- County Forest
- Bearskin - Hiawatha State Trail
- Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail
- Lynne / Little Rice ATV Trail
- Enterprise ATV Trail
- Snowmobile Trail
- Rustic Roads (WisDOT)
- Existing - On Road Trails
- Existing - Off Road Trails
- State Campgrounds
- XC Ski Trail
- Mtn. Bike Trail
- Hiking Trail
- State Natural Areas

- Parks**
- City
 - County
 - County Boat Landing



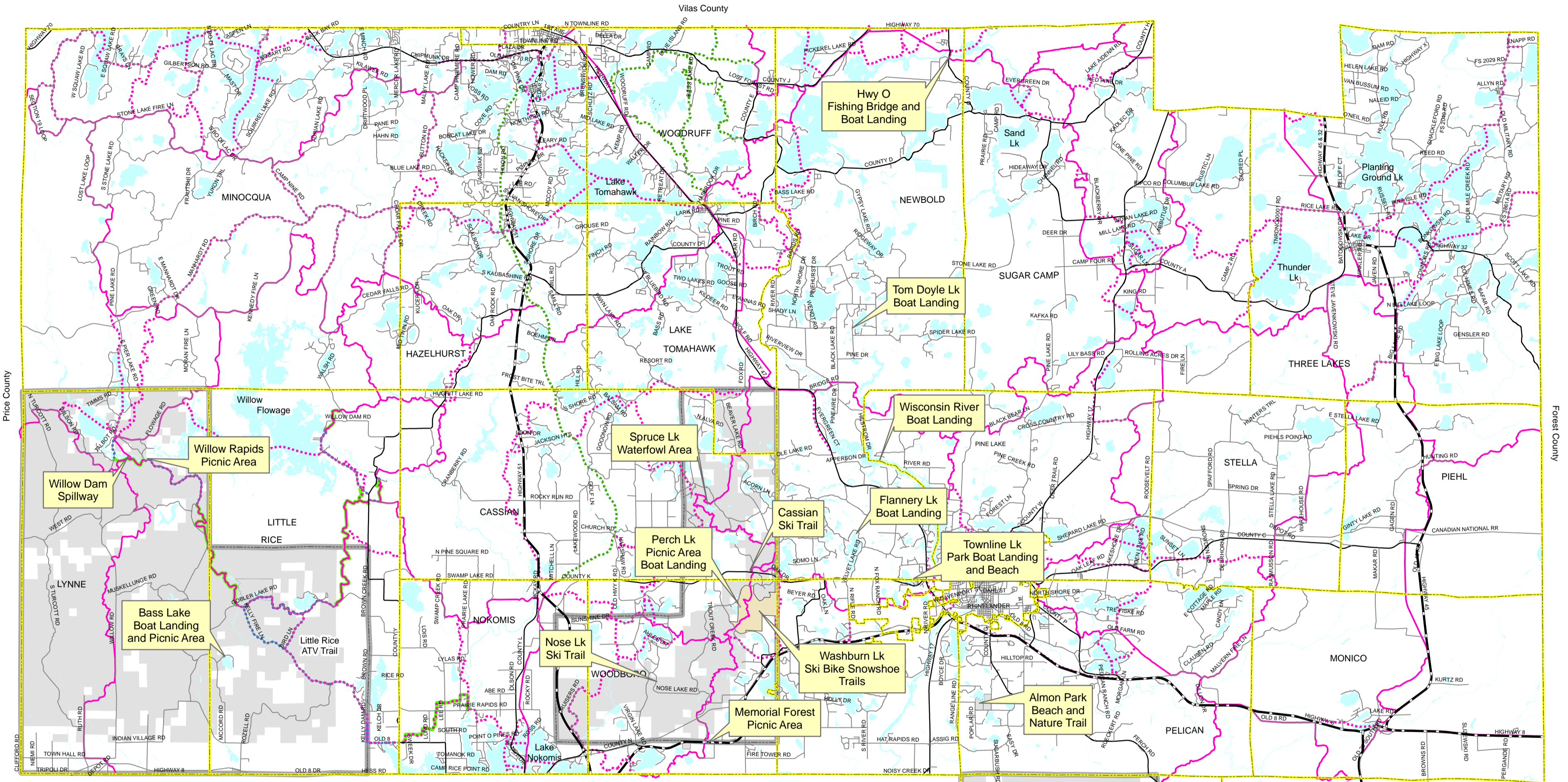
This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only. NCWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.

Source: WI DNR, NCWRPC



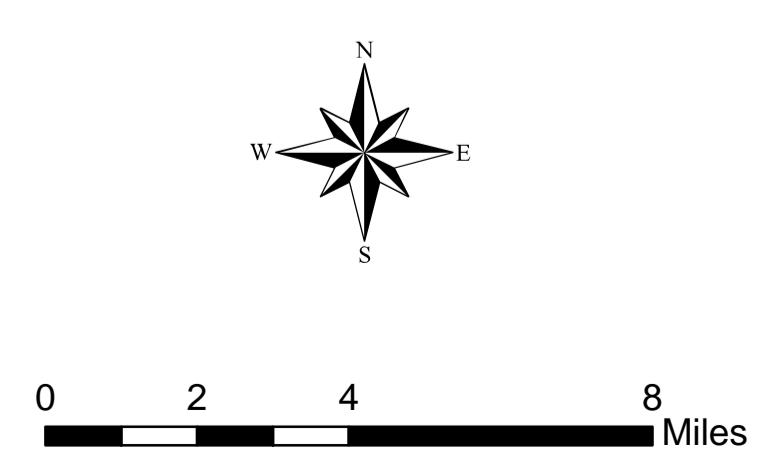
Prepared by:
**North Central Wisconsin
 Regional Planning Commission**
 210 McClellan Street, Suite 210, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403 (715) 849-5510 www.ncwrpc.org

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT



Legend

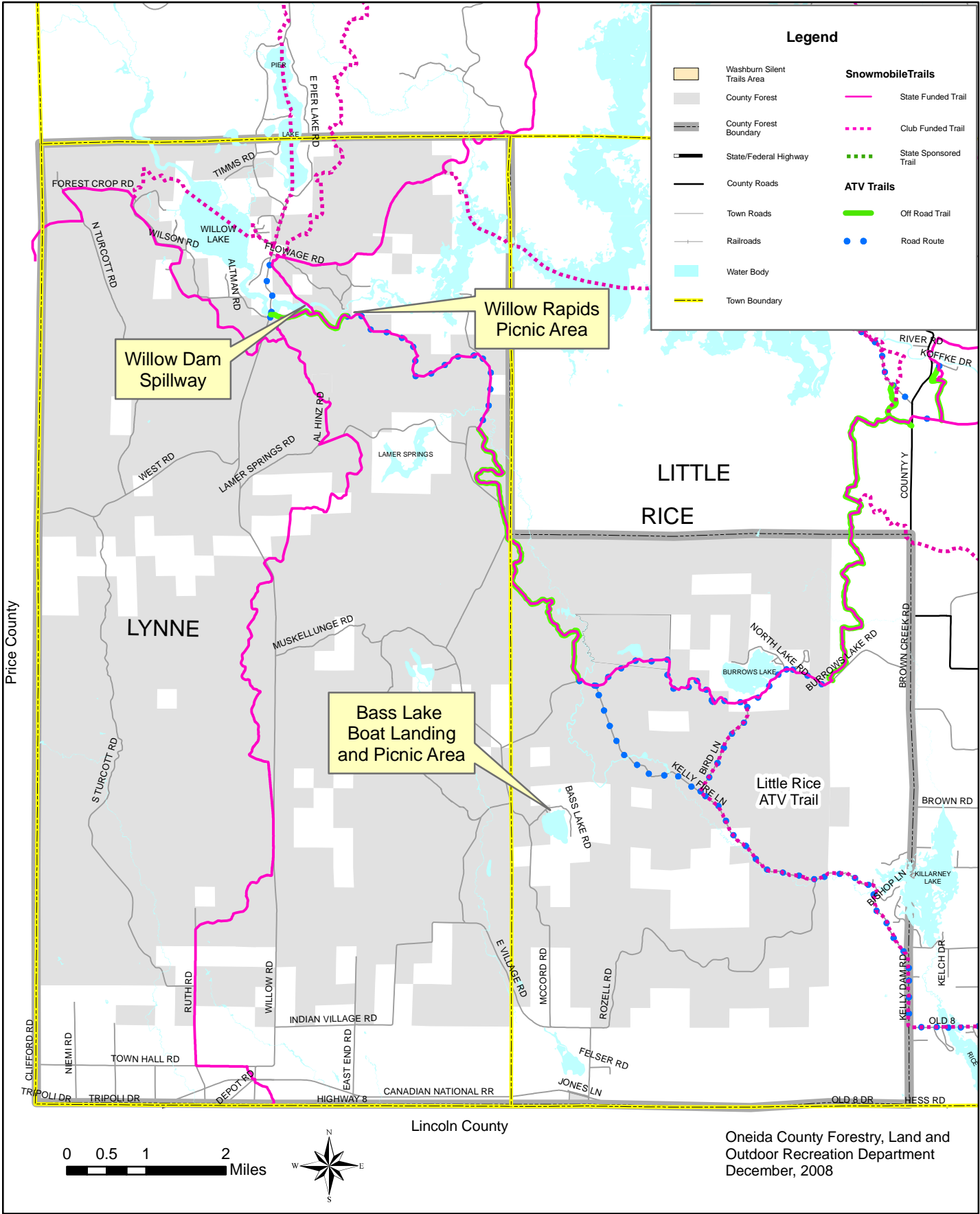
| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Washburn Silent Trails Area | | Snowmobile Trails |
| | County Forest | | State Funded Trail |
| | County Forest Boundary | | Club Funded Trail |
| | Town Roads | | State Sponsored Trail |
| | County Roads | | ATV Trails |
| | State/Federal Highways | | Off Road Trail |
| | Railroads | | Road Route |
| | Water Body | | |
| | Town Boundary | | |



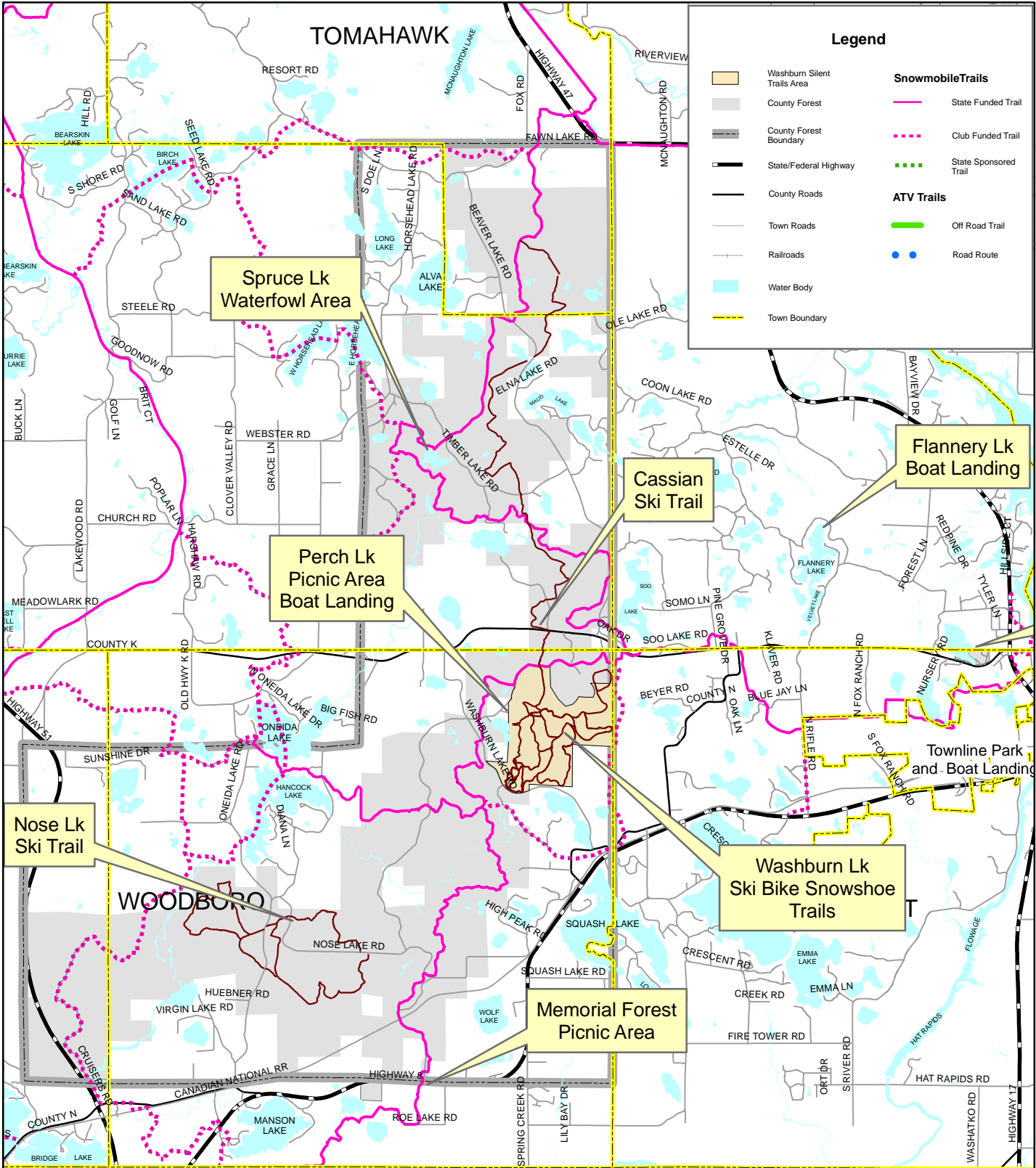
DATA SOURCES AND DISCLAIMERS:
 Information depicted on this map was interpreted from aerial photography and various other public land records. An attempt was made to accurately represent the information shown hereon, however, recent changes in the physical and cultural landscape may not be represented. This map is intended for planning and general use only. Please refer to original source documents for detailed information. Please contact the Oneida County Forestry Office at (715)369-6140 if you discover any discrepancies on this map.

Oneida County Forestry Department
 PO Box 400 – Courthouse
 Rhineland, WI 54501

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT LYNNE/LITTLE RICE BLOCK



RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT CASSIAN/WOODBORO BLOCK

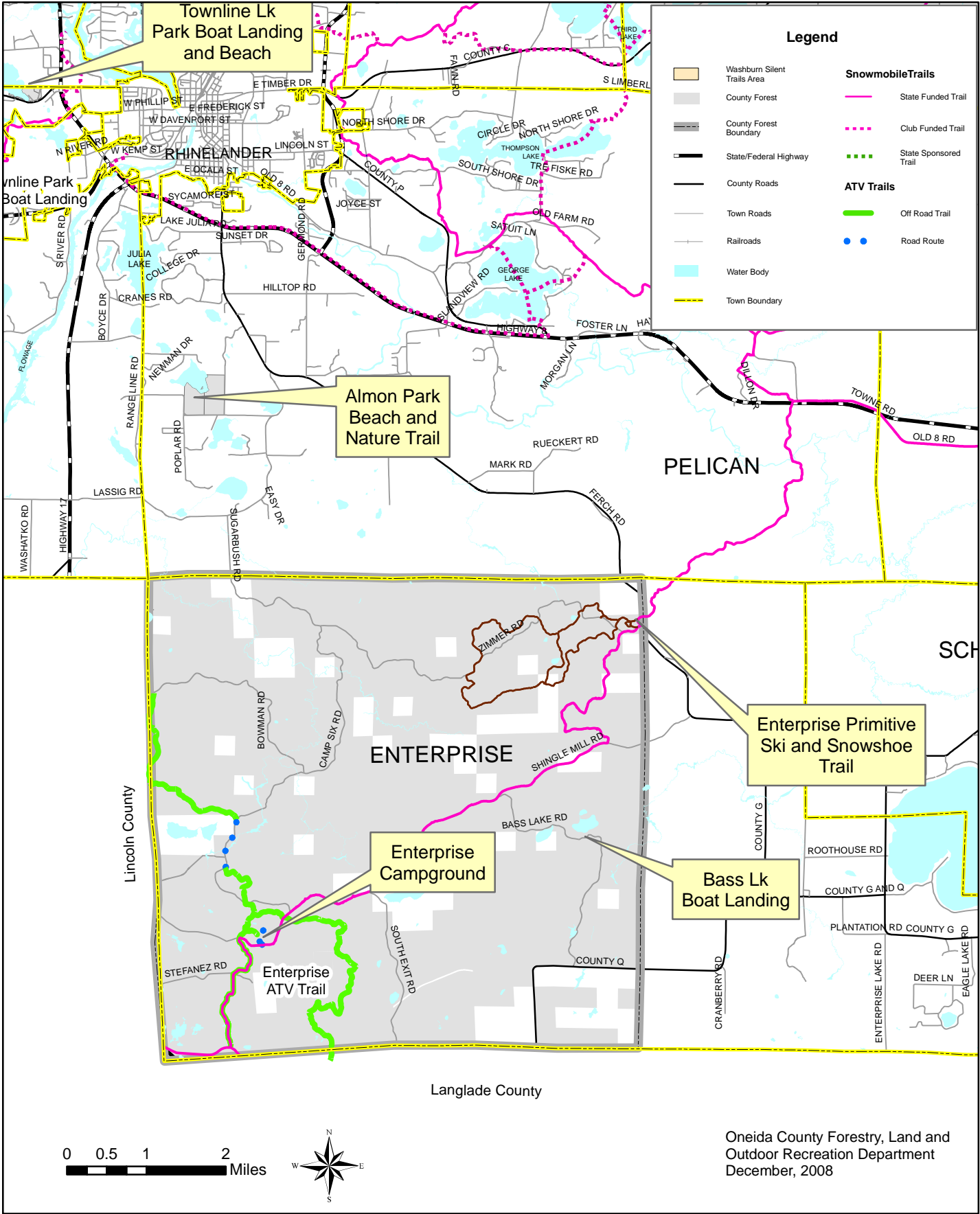


Legend

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Washburn Silent Trails Area | | Snowmobile Trails |
| | County Forest | | State Funded Trail |
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| | State/Federal Highway | | State Sponsored Trail |
| | County Roads | | ATV Trails |
| | Town Roads | | Off Road Trail |
| | Railroads | | Road Route |
| | Water Body | | |
| | Town Boundary | | |



RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE BLOCK



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Chapter 3

EXISTING COUNTY MANAGED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section is an inventory of the existing public outdoor recreational facilities that are managed by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department.

3.2 COUNTY FOREST

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department manages 82,278.72 acres of county forest. This land is managed for multiple uses, and is independently certified as sustainably managed and harvested. Some of the county forest is closed to motorized vehicles. Examples of permitted recreational activities are hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, camping, bough cutting (permit required), firewood collection (permit required), and wildlife observation. Refer to Maps 3 and 4 for Oneida County Forest land. The 2006-2020 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan explains the policy of public use for recreational purposes within the County Forest. This County Forest Plan is available at the following sites: The Rhinelander Public Library, the Minocqua Public Library, the Three Lakes Public Library, the Nicolet College Library, and the Oneida County Forestry Office. In addition, an electronic final draft version of the plan will be made available for public review on the Oneida County web site. Finally, for those individuals who would prefer to own a personal copy of the plan, a hard copy or CD version of the can be purchased from the Oneida County Forestry Department.

Outdoor recreation facilities in the county forest are shown on Maps 4, 5, and 6. Cross country ski trails, snowshoe trails, hiking/hunter walking trails, mountain bike trails, general motorized trails, snowmobile trails, and ATV trails all exist within the county forest. Each of these trail types are described below:

Silent Sport Trails

Silent sport outdoor recreational trail facilities in the county forest include: **cross-country ski trails, snowshoe trails, hiking/hunter walking trails, and mountain bike trails.** Each of these trail types are described below:

Cross Country Ski Trails

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department maintains approximately 39 miles of cross-country ski trails distributed in four areas of the county forest, shown on Maps 3 and 4.

The Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail – This fifteen-mile (roundtrip) trail originates on County Highway K in the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. There is a shelter and restroom at the halfway point of the trail. This trail is groomed for classic tracked skiing only.

The Washburn Non-Motorized Trail – This trail is nine miles long, with access points located at Perch Lake Park and on Washburn Lake Road in the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. The trail is groomed for both classic tracked skiing and ski skating. Trail amenities include a warming shelter and toilet building. The north end of the Washburn trail connects to the Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail at the Jct. of County Hwy K and Goodyear Lake Road in the Town of Cassian.

The Nose Lake Ski Touring Trail – This eight-mile trail has a trailhead on Nose Lake Road in the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. This trail is groomed for classic tracked skiing only. Dogs are permitted on this ski trail.

The Enterprise Primitive Trail – This seven mile trail is accessed via a trailhead located near the intersection of County Highway G and Zimmer Road in the Enterprise County Forest Block. This trail is not groomed so as to provide a winter trail opportunity for both traditional cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing alike. Dogs are permitted on this ski trail.

Snowshoe Trails

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department maintains approximately 11.5-miles of snowshoe trail distributed in three areas of the county forest, shown on Map 3.

The Washburn Non-Motorized Trail – The Washburn snowshoe trail totals approximately 2 miles in length. The trail is comprised of three small loops and a spur trail that connects the system to the trailhead located at Perch Lake Park.

The Almon Park Nature/Snowshoe Trail – This snowshoe/nature trail is located within Almon Park in the Town of Pelican. The trail totals 2.5-miles in length and is divided into two separate loops with a spur trail connecting the loops and parking area.

The Enterprise Primitive Trail - This 7-mile trail is accessed via a trailhead located near the intersection of County Highway G and Zimmer Road in the Enterprise County Forest Block. Dogs are permitted on this ski/ snowshoe trail.

Hiking/Hunter Walking Trails

There are about 40 miles of FLORD maintained trails for wildlife management and recreational purposes throughout the county forest. The trail network is located on old logging roads that have been seeded with clover and are maintained to serve as wildlife travel paths and as walking trails for hunters and hikers.

Mountain Bike Trails

Approximately 5 miles of traditional mountain bike trails, and about 5 miles of single-track bike trails are located in the Washburn Non-Motorized Trail system of the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest Block. These trails are maintained by FLORD.

General Purpose Motorized Trails

There are approximately 214-miles of unsigned (non-marked) woodland trails located on Oneida County Forest Land that are open to all motorized vehicles year-round. During the winter months (generally December 15th – March 15th), the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department opens all gated trails on County Forest land (with the exception of those trails

maintained for skiing and snowmobiling) to motorized vehicle use. This opens up an additional 63-miles of woodland trail for winter motorized use.

Snowmobile Trails

Oneida County has approximately 1,000-miles of established public snowmobile trails: 466-miles are **state-funded** (of which 391-miles are county sponsored and 75-miles are state sponsored) and 535-miles are **club-funded**, non-sponsored snowmobile trails. Map 3 shows the location of the state-funded and club-funded trails, but there are also numerous road routes available for snowmobiling throughout the County. The state-funded trails sponsored by Oneida County FLORD are maintained by the Oneida County Snowmobile Council. The Council is comprised of ten snowmobile clubs that meet monthly during the snowmobile season to provide continuous input to FLORD about the future direction of the County's snowmobile program.

ATV TRAILS (Segments are not mapped individually. Trails are on Maps 3 and 4.)

Oneida County sponsors 26-miles of state-funded All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails. The state funded ATV trails in Oneida County are divided into two segments:

- **Segment 1** is located in southwestern Oneida County and consists of 16 miles of off-road trail that is linked to approximately 45 miles of ATV road routes. These trails are usually open for public ATV use from Memorial Day to December 1st. The off road miles of this segment are located on State-owned, and Private Industrial Forest lands that exist under short-term land use agreements with the County for public use of ATVs.
- **Segment 2** is located in south central Oneida County and consists of 10 miles of off-road trails that connect to approximately 75 miles of additional ATV trails located in Lincoln and Langlade Counties to the south. These trails are generally open to public ATV use from Memorial Day to December 1st. All trail miles within this segment are located on Oneida County Forest Land.

In addition to the above described ATV trails, there are approximately 214-miles of unsigned (non-marked) woodland trails located on Oneida County Forest Land that are open to all motorized vehicles year-round. During the winter months (generally December 15th – March 15th), the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department opens all gated trails on County Forest land (with the exception of those trails maintained for skiing and snowmobiling) to motorized vehicle use. This opens up an additional 63-miles of woodland trail for winter ATV use.

3.3 OTHER COUNTY MANAGED FACILITIES

Spruce Lake Waterfowl Management Area – This area utilizes a dike and water control structure to allow the water level to be manipulated. By raising and lowering the water level, the Forestry Department is able to manage aquatic vegetation for waterfowl to use as food and cover.

Willow Lake Dam/Spillway Area – A dam/spillway regulates water levels on Willow Lake. This area has a recreational trail crossing, and provides beneficial fish and wildlife habitat.

Highway O Fishing Bridge – Originally, the Highway O Fishing Bridge was a county highway bridge used to cross the Wisconsin River. In the early 1980's the County Highway Department

abandoned the bridge and transferred its ownership to the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department for use as a recreational bridge. In 2007 the FLORD replaced the old deteriorating bridge with a new steel clear span structure. The new clear span bridge is primarily used as a pedestrian fishing bridge, and a river crossing for snowmobiles.

3.4 COUNTY PARKS

Due to the large seasonal population, the usage of Oneida County parks has a direct effect on the County's economy. The tourism industry places a heavy emphasis on recreation, and therefore depends upon adequate facilities for a variety of outdoor recreational activities. County forestlands, and day-use county parks form an important foundation of recreational activity in Oneida County.

County Parks are maintained by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, & Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD). Maps 3 and 4 show the locations of these parks and recreation areas:

Almon Recreation Area – This is the largest of the County's parks at 160 acres in size, and is located on the shores of Buck Lake. The park is comprised of two parts: the park area, and the nature trails area. Facilities include a swimming beach, two toilet buildings, changing rooms, nature trails, three picnic shelters, picnic tables, cooking grills, paved parking, and an open area for field games.

Perch Lake Park – Approximately five acres of developed area on Perch Lake make up this park that is surrounded by the county forest. Amenities found at Perch Lake Park include: a large heated shelter building with electricity, picnic tables, cooking grills, toilet building, boat landing, and a soon to be completed handicapped accessible fishing pier with asphalt access trail. The most popular feature of Perch Lake Park is that it serves as the main trailhead to the Washburn Non-Motorized Trail System. For a more detailed description of The Washburn Non-Motorized Trail System see the **Silent Sports Trails** segment of this chapter.

Townline Park – This two part park has approximately 21 acres. The part on the south side of Townline Lake on County Highway K has a swimming beach area with picnic tables, cooking grills, paved parking, and restroom facilities with changing rooms. The part on the east side of the lake has a paved parking area, restroom facilities, play equipment, paved boat landing, and two picnic shelters with picnic tables and cooking grills.

Willow Rapids Picnic Area – This small unimproved picnic area has minimal facilities. It is located near the scenic Willow Rapids along the Willow River.

Bass Lake Picnic Area – This picnic area has picnic tables, cooking grills, a boat landing, a parking area, and toilet buildings.

Enterprise Forest Campground – The Enterprise Forest Campground is located on a 35-acre parcel of County Forest Land approximately 7 miles south of Rhinelander. The campground offers 11 gravel based campsites, toilet buildings, potable water, onsite firewood, and is located immediately adjacent to the Enterprise ATV Trail. Campsites are reserved through an onsite self-registration system at a cost of \$10.00 per day, no pre-registration or reservations. All campsites are

large enough to accommodate pull behind campers and traditional tents alike. The campground is accessible by both car and ATV.

3.5 COUNTY MAINTAINED PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department currently maintains eight public accesses (access points to water bodies):

1. Bass Lake, Town of Enterprise
2. Bass Lake, Town of Little Rice
3. Flannery Lake, Town of Newbold
4. Perch Lake, Town of Woodboro
5. Tom Doyle Lake, Town of Newbold
6. Townline Lake, Town of Newbold
7. Wisconsin River, Town of Newbold, County Highway O
8. Wisconsin River, Town of Pine Lake, Journey's End Road

Chapter 4

EXISTING NON-COUNTY PUBLICALLY MANAGED OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section is an inventory of the existing public outdoor recreation facilities that are managed by federal, state, town, or city governments. The following inventory was added to provide a comprehensive view of publicly managed outdoor recreation facilities within Oneida County.

4.2 LINEAR FACILITIES

Chequamegon–Nicolet National Forest (Forest) ATV Policy

In 2004, the Forest revised its forest management plan. The revised plan contains a consistent ATV policy for both sides of the Forest:

- No off-road or off trail use allowed (implemented on June 14, 2004).
- New trail construction allowed for up to 100 miles of trail on the Chequamegon side, and up to 85 total miles on the Nicolet side. The Nicolet side covers Oneida County.
- All roads and trails closed to ATV use unless posted open with signs.
- All trails and Forest Service roads will be closed to ATV's every year from March 15 through April 30. Township designated roads are still open.
- No Intensive Use ("play areas") allowed on the Forest.
- Emergency closures can be issued locally where resources are being damaged or abused, or there are safety concerns.

All Forest Service roads that are open to ATV use are posted with signs. Also, maps containing information on areas open to ATV use can be obtained at Ranger District Offices.

Biking and Hiking Trails

The Oneida County Board of Supervisors approved the Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan in 2002 as part of the community health plan. This plan refers to potential corridors for bike and pedestrian traffic using existing and proposed infrastructure. A copy of the executive summary of the plan may be found in Appendix A, and all the existing and potential trails are shown on Map 2.

Rustic Roads

Oneida County has two rustic roads. Rustic Roads 58 and 59 are a combination of Mercer Lake Road, Sutton Road, and Blue Lake Road near the intersection of STH 70 and USH 51, and are shown on Map 3. Rustic Roads are designated by the WisDOT Rustic Roads program. Additional Rustic Roads may be designated if they meet the criteria available online at:

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/scenic/rusticroads.htm>

Water Trails

A water trail is a network of access points, resting places, and attractions for users of water craft on lakes and rivers. There are many streams and rivers providing canoeists 830 miles of routes. This website can help with creating a trail:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/publications/watertrails/>.

All navigable water is available to canoe on according to the Public Trust Doctrine (Art. 1, §1, WI Constitution). Wisconsin law recognizes that owners of lands bordering lakes and rivers—"riparian" owners—hold rights in the water next to their property. These riparian rights include the use of the shoreline, reasonable use of the water, and a right to access the water. Members of the public may only use any exposed shore area of a stream without the permission of the riparian (i.e., landowner) if it is necessary to exit the body of water to bypass an obstruction. In addition, a member of the public may not enter the exposed shore area except from the water, from a point of public access on the stream, or with the permission of the riparian landowner. Obstructions could consist of trees or rocks, shallow water for boaters or deep water for wading trout anglers. The bypass can involve areas up to the ordinary high water mark and should be by the shortest possible route. Under this law, using the exposed shoreline for purposes such as picnicking and sunbathing is not allowed (Ch. 30.134, WI Stats.).

4.3 HISTORICAL MARKERS

A state historical marker titled: **Nicolet National Forest** is located off State Hwy 32, east of Three Lakes.

A state historical marker titled: **First Rural Zoning Ordinance** is located on the Oneida County Courthouse grounds, Rhinelander.

A state historical marker titled: **The Hodag** is located in Hodag Park, Rhinelander.

4.4 SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

Six school districts provide additional local recreation opportunities in Oneida County. School yards often have playgrounds with play equipment, ball diamonds, and basketball hoops. These neighborhood parks range in size from 1 to 15 acres. A few districts also have school forests that are open to the public for a variety of recreational and educational uses.

School Forests are listed for each district:

Minocqua, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk (MHLT) School District

- MHLT School Forest, 40 acres, Sec. 34 T38N R6E; and
- Minocqua School Forest, 193 acres, Sec. 22, 23, & 26 T39N R6E.

School District of Elcho

1. Elcho School Forest, 80 acres, E1/2 SW, sec. 30 T35N R10E
2. Elcho School Forest, 160 acres, NE1/4, sec. 29 T35N R11E

School District of Tomahawk

1. Tomahawk School Forest, 40 acres, SWSE, sec. 11, T35NR6E
2. Tomahawk School Forest, 40 acres, NWNE, sec. 27, T35NR6E

School District of Rhinelander

The School District of Rhinelander School Forest is the largest in Wisconsin, consisting of nine parcels ranging in size from 39 to 360 acres. The District has been managing these properties for over 70 years, with the help of a State Forester, Wildlife Biologist, and many other experts. School forest properties are utilized in many different ways. There are over 30 miles of trails for hiking, biking, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and skiing, in the school forest for the whole community to enjoy. Hunting, fishing and geocaching are other activities that also take place on the district forest properties.

1. North Rifle Road S.F., 39 acres, ~NENW, sec. 4 T36NR8E
2. Flag Lake S.F., 53 acres, sec. 4 & 5 T36NR8E
3. Bullhead Lake S.F. 79 acres, S1/2SW, Sec. 3 T36NR9E
4. Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom (CAVOC) 160-acres, NE1/4, sec 10, T36N R10E
CAVOC consists of Rominsky Lodge and classroom, outdoor pavilion, camp fire ring, silent sports area, primitive bog lake, high and low ropes challenge course, 5 miles of trails, paved handicapped accessible trails, hiking, biking, snowshoeing and groomed cross country ski trails, reserve and managed forest areas, lake vista, self guided nature trail, bog walk, osprey nesting plate form, research projects, orienteering course, and many other education opportunities.
5. Flannery Lake S.F. 80 acres, N1/2SW, sec. 34, T37N R8E
6. Cross Country East S.F. 120 acres, sec.1, T37N R9E
7. Cross Country West S.F., 158 acres, sec 2 & 11, T37N R9E
8. Crystal Lake Road S.F., 160 acres, SW1/4, sec. 7 T37N R9E
9. Bear Trail Road S.F., 360 acres, sec 5, 7, 8, T37N R9E

Three Lakes School District

- Three Lakes School Forest, 34 acres, Sec. 32 T38N R11E;
- Gagen-Piehl School Forest, 40 acres, Sec. 29 T37N R11E; and
- Sugar Camp School Forest, 40 acres, Sec. 34 T38N R9E.

Woodruff School District

- Arbor Vitae-Woodruff School Forest, 22 acres, Sec. 20 T39N R7E.

4.5 CITY and TOWN FACILITIES

City of Rhinelander

Recreational opportunities that exist in the City of Rhinelander include:

- *Hodag Park* – The park is located on Boom Lake, north of downtown. Facilities include the John T. Stafford Babe Ruth Field; Huber Little League Field; a little league/softball field; a picnic shelter with tables and grills; rest benches; an ADA accessible path; playground equipment; ADA accessible restrooms; ADA accessible fishing pier with path; boat landing with three launch piers; water ski show area with storage and concession building, 5 sets of bleachers, and ski jump; tennis court; two sand volleyball courts; and a swimming beach with pier, and ADA accessible changing and restroom building.
- *West Side Park* – This park is located on the northwest side of the Wisconsin River. Facilities include a lighted ball field with four sets of bleachers, scorer booth, dugouts, and storage room; lighted women's slow pitch ball field with five sets of bleachers, dugouts, and storage shed; playground equipment; ADA accessible restroom/shelter building; picnic tables and grills; three tennis courts; and a BMX track with fencing.
- *Sarockea Field* – This ball field is located on N Eastern Ave. Facilities include a sledding hill, tennis court, softball diamond with dugouts, playground equipment, and picnic tables.
- *Pioneer Park* – This park is located along a former rail line several blocks south of the County Courthouse. Facilities include a logging museum inside the old depot; CCC museum; old school museum; two lighted tennis courts; the Virgil Hoffhein Softball Field that includes lighting, bleachers, dugouts, concession stand, scorekeepers stand, and scoreboard; restroom/ice skating warming room; three picnic shelters; picnic area with tables and grills; playground equipment; a second restroom; six horseshoe pits and benches; and a hockey rink.
- *Shepard Park Wayside* – This park is located on Boyce Dr (STH 17). Facilities include a restroom, drinking fountain, picnic tables, grills, and playground equipment.
- *Rhinelander's Northwoods Golf Course and Cross-Country Ski Trail* – This public golf course is owned by the City of Rhinelander and is located along USH 8 by the airport. Facilities include an 18-hole golf course, a clubhouse with restaurant, locker rooms, and pro shop; a tubing hill exists in winter; along with groomed cross-country ski trails.

Town of Cassian

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Bearskin State Trail* – This is an 18-mile former railroad bed covered in crushed granite for use by hikers, bikers, and snowmobilers.

- *Cassian Ski Trail* – The 15-mile 2-way trail runs from Hwy K to north of Alva Lake. There are wildlife viewing areas off of both Swamp Lake Road and County Highway Y.

Public Access:

The Town of Cassian owns and maintains boat accesses on Timber Lake, Spruce Lake, and Goodyear Lake. All the boat access areas are located on County Forest property. The State of Wisconsin owns and maintains boat accesses to Long Lake and Big Bearskin Lake.

Other Facilities:

The Cassian–Woodboro School has a soccer field and baseball diamond, outdoor basketball court, and a playground area. The Sand Lake beach is available for swimming. Grace Lutheran Church has a playground that is available to residents after school hours.

Town of Crescent

There is one boat access on the south shore of Squash Lake with a parking area.

Town of Enterprise

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Town Community Building* – A building with picnic tables, and a boat access on the west end of Pelican Lake called Keeler Landing.
- The WDNR has a landing and pier.

Town of Hazelhurst

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Hazelhurst Ballpark* – Facilities include playground equipment, a lighted baseball diamond (used by Little League and men's and women's baseball leagues during the summer), basketball, tournaments, the Lions Club flea market fundraiser, training for the volunteer Fire Department, and tennis court.
- *Lake Katherine Beach Park* – Facilities include swimming beach, picnicking area, 2 piers, swimming area raft, playground, picnic tables, grills, dry hydrant, restroom facilities, changing building, volleyball pit, and a large paved parking lot.
- *Bike Trails* – The Bearskin State Bike Trail runs north to south through the town. There are also two new bike trails connecting to Highway 51: one on Oneida Street and the other along Lee Road.
- *McCormick Lake Landing* – The Town maintains this boat landing, and the launching pier and pit toilet are maintained by the lake association.

Town of Lake Tomahawk

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Rainbow Park* – Facilities include a ball diamond with fencing, dugout and bleachers with lighting; picnic area; accessible restrooms; parking lot; storage shed.
- *Snowshoe Park* – Facilities include a large picnic shelter with concession and food area; new public restroom facility, a collection of playground equipment; basketball hoop; lighted ball diamond with fencing, bleachers, announcer stand/scoring booth; ice-skating rink with storage shed, and lighting system.
- *Lake Tomahawk Park* – Facilities include a picnic area with 6 tables and 4 grills; swimming beach with launching pier, map board, sign for launch fees, collection box; paved parking; security lights; public restroom, sand volleyball court.
- *Bearfoot Park* – Facilities include a pull-off graveled parking area from the highway, picnic tables and grills, a slide/swing set playground equipment unit, American flag, and sculpture.

The town's outdoor recreational facilities are complemented by facilities in the Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest. DNR facilities within the town include campgrounds, groomed cross-country ski trails, a nature interpretive trail, and numerous boat landings. The Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company maintains boat landings and a river access at the nearby Rainbow Flowage.

Town of Little Rice

The Town of Little Rice currently has no land designated for public parks or recreational development. All outdoor recreation needs are located at facilities existing within Oneida County.

Town of Lynne

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Town of Lynne Park* – The Town maintains a park area adjacent to the Town Hall that includes a lighted basketball court, a ball diamond, and a picnic pavilion. Next to the park, a local sports club operates a trap shooting range and a local ATV trail.
- The town also maintains a boat access on Pier Lake.

Town of Minocqua

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Torpy Beach and Park* – Facilities include a beach, changing rooms, showers, restrooms, band stand, concession, picnic shelters, grills and tables, tennis courts, playground, sand volleyball court, parking area, stone paths, horseshoe pit, ice skating rink during the winter months and warming area.
- *Dorwin Park* – Facilities include a shelter, benches, planters, and walkways.

- *Minocqua Ball Park* – facilities include a baseball field, volleyball courts, lights, restrooms, playground, and parking area.
- *Minocqua Winter Park and Nordic Center* – Facilities include a downhill skiing facility on 40 acres owned by the Town with an additional 1,200 acres leased from private landowners, 60 kilometers of cross-country ski trails groomed and tracked for both skating and diagonal, a heated chalet with restrooms, concession, lighted trails, two ski jumps, equipment rental and sales, waxing room, parking, and storage space for grooming equipment and a trail shelter.
- *Fishing Pier* – The Town of Minocqua and the WDNR jointly maintain an extensive, lighted, handicapped accessible fishing pier adjacent to U.S. Highway 51 and was formerly used as a bridge for that highway. The pier is well used by the public and has public parking, treated hand railings with slots for wheelchair accessible fishing, and a section of decking that is wheelchair friendly.
- *Cedar Park* – This half-acre wooded shoreline park is located east of the municipal dock. This park has landscaping, a walkway down the slope to the lake, a picnic table, and pier for fishing and docking. There are no scheduled improvements for the 2004-2008 period.
- *Bearskin Trailhead Park* – Facilities include a public restrooms, picnic area, a boat dock and fishing pier.
- *Minocqua Gun Club* – This facility is located 1.5 miles south of the bridge on Hwy 51 on Gun Club Road. A newly remodeled clubhouse exists, along with four trap fields, a skeet range, sporting clays, a wobble trap, and double birds.

Public Access Points to Water Bodies:

There are several public accesses/landings maintained by the Town of Minocqua. Three accesses to Lake Minocqua are located on the "Island"; others include Bear Lake, Squirrel Lake, Swansauger Lake, Squaw Lake, Buckskin Lake, Thoroughfare Channel, and many other undeveloped accesses.

Other Recreational Facilities:

- *Schlecht Lake Ski Trail* – This WDNR maintained trail with lights for night skiing in winter, and is available for mountain biking in summer.

Town of Monico

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Lake Venus* – This facility includes swim ropes and buoys, beach, picnic tables, grills, a unisex toilet, and benches.
- *Baseball Park/Pavilion* – This facility includes a concession area with electrical hookups, and pit toilets. The ball field includes a backstop, six sets of bleachers, and shelters for the players.

- *Mars Lake Boat Landing* – This facility includes a launch area and parking lot, newly blacktopped in 2002.
- *Town Hall Park* – This facility includes a basketball court and rest benches, surfaced play area, skatepark, and playground.

Public accesses exist on Neptune, Mars, Venus, and Tank Lakes. There is public access to Lake Venus for swimming, but no boat access.

Town of Newbold

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Town Hall* – A two-section picnic/cooking shelter and picnic tables exist near the Town hall.
- *Newbold Trail* – An eight-mile hiking/bike trail that uses both on-road and off-road routes.
- *Newbold Memorial Park* – Facilities include a canoe landing and fishing area.
- *Two Sisters Lake* – Facilities include a boat landing, a small beach, and parking area.
- The Stone Lake area is managed by the DNR as a hunting trail system.
- The Newbold elementary school property has playground equipment as well as outdoor basketball and baseball fields.

Town of Nokomis

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Town Hall Park* – Facilities include 3 picnic shelter areas including two attached to the Volunteer Fire Department building; concession stand; 24 picnic tables; a variety of playground equipment; play house; and 2 basketball hoops on paved parking lot; no outdoor restrooms; access to indoor wheel-chair accessible restroom facilities within the town hall.
- *Nokomis Ball Park* – Facilities include Pavilion with concession stand and storage; four sets of bleachers; restrooms; electrical hookups; memorialized trees with markers; water pump and hoses for watering the ball field inside the pump house structure; security lighting; playground; two fenced-in ball fields with backstops; sand box; third ball field, grass area, with back stop; batting cage and pitching machine; dugouts for one ball field; storage building; scoreboard on one ball field; volleyball court; electric outlets by ball diamonds.
- *County L-Business 51 Wayside Park* – There is a picnic shelter with picnic tables and grills.
- The Town also owns a boat landing on Lake Nokomis off Point O' Pines Road. This is a narrow, 30-foot wide strip that is graveled with a concrete ramp.
- *Rice Reservoir Public Landing and Picnic Area* – This facility is maintained by WVIC and includes picnic tables, pit toilets, a paved boat landing, and wide concrete launch pad.

Town of Pelican

The Town of Pelican has a swimming beach and picnic area by the Town Hall.

Town of Piehl

The Town of Piehl currently has two boat access points.

Town of Pine Lake

The Town of Pine Lake has four boat access points: one on Moens Lake, one on Boom Lake, and two on the Wisconsin River. The town also has a softball diamond with a restroom facility on Trail's End Road.

Town of Schoepke

The Town of Schoepke currently has no land designated for public parks. All outdoor recreation needs are located at facilities existing within Oneida County.

Town of Stella

The Town of Stella currently has no land designated for public parks. All outdoor recreation needs are located at facilities existing within Oneida County.

Town of Sugar Camp

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Town of Sugar Camp/Lions Park* – Facilities include three ball fields with lighting and new bleachers on two fields; two soccer fields with cyclone fencing along west side; two new basketball courts with lights and fencing; lighted tennis courts; concession stand/announcer booth; ADA accessible playground equipment; picnic shelter; pavilion with kitchen, bathroom facilities, concession stand, picnic area; horseshoe pits; two lighted volleyball courts; blacktop parking lot; restroom; drinking fountain; and 18-hole disc golf course with concrete pads.
- *Sugar Camp Lake Beaches* – This park includes a beach area, off-highway parking, a unisex bathroom and changing room, and park benches.

Boat landings/access sites are located on Chain, Indian, Lily Bass, Jennie Webber, and Sand Lakes.

Town of Three Lakes

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Don Burnside Recreational Park* – Facilities include one baseball and two softball/little league diamonds with dugouts, bleachers and fencing, one diamond also includes lighting and an electric scoreboard; two T-ball backstops/fields; multipurpose field use for soccer; two horseshoe pits; sand volleyball courts; full-sized basketball court; heated indoor/outdoor pavilion with restrooms, picnic and folding tables; restroom/shelter building with drinking fountain, and concession/announcer stand located by the lighted ball diamond; five tennis courts with lighting; paved volleyball court and half-court basketball hoop also lighted; playground equipment; soccer goals; paved parking area; and Three Lakes Unlimited snowmobile storage room/cook shack facility and announcer stand in the connected Snowmobile Park area.
- *Cy Williams Park* – Facilities include a playground; swimming beach and pier; ADA accessible restroom/changing room facility; picnic shelter with 10 picnic tables; grill; outdoor picnic tables and rest benches; volleyball net and paved parking.
- *Phyllis B. Felland Memorial Water Ski Park* – Facilities include a log toilet facility/shelter with drinking water fountain; bleachers and announcer stand; storage building/concession stand with electric hookups.
- *Three Eagle Trail* – The southern segment of the trail is 8.4 miles long, ten feet wide and surfaced with crushed limestone. The trail also includes two boardwalks and one bridge.

Town of Woodboro

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- Hancock Lake boat landing and parking lot.

Town of Woodruff

Existing Recreational Facilities:

- *Brandy Park* – The Town of Woodruff and the Town of Arbor Vitae joined to establish the Brandy Park Commission to manage the development and maintenance of the co-owned Brandy Park. Facilities include two baseball fields with fencing and bleachers; soccer field with lighting; large shelter building with grills and picnic tables; two tennis courts with fencing; two sand volleyball courts; paved full basketball court with fencing; an extensive series of playground equipment including a well landscaped fenced-in area for younger children; swimming beach with pier and lifeguard stand; changing house/restroom facility; shoreline picnic area with tables, grills and rest benches; and paved walkway from shelter to beach parking area. Winter facilities include ice skating rink with a warming house and restrooms.

The Town's outdoor recreation facilities are augmented by facilities provided by the Northern Highland–American Legion State Forest, the local school system, numerous private resorts and attractions, and youth camps. The WDNR maintains public campground facilities at Lake Cunard, Carrol Lake, Clear Lake, Tomahawk Lake, and Buffalo Lake within the Town of Woodruff. The

Raven Trail system and the Madeline Lake Trail system are groomed cross-country ski trails maintained by the WDNR. Boat landings provided by the WDNR exist on Minocqua, Tomahawk, Clear, Madeline, Carrol, Dorothy, Sweeney, Cunard, Hasbrook, Gilmore, and Buffalo lakes.

4.6 STATE FACILITIES

Each listing is located on Map 3.

State Wildlife Areas

State wildlife areas were acquired by the state to protect and manage important habitat for wildlife and to preserve unique wild land features for hikers, wildlife watchers, hunters, trappers, and all people interested in the out-of-doors. Wildlife areas have only minor facility development like a very small gravel parking lot.

The following wildlife areas are owned by the State of Wisconsin and managed by the Department of Natural Resources. There are no federal wildlife areas in Oneida County:

Thunder Lake Wildlife Area located 1 mile north of Three Lakes is a public hunting area that consists of 3,000 acres. The following recreational opportunities exist at Thunder Lake Wildlife Area: hunting (except the Waterfowl Closed Area around Rice Lake), trapping, hiking, snowmobiling trail, auto travel, berry picking, wildlife viewing, bird watching, and canoeing.

Woodboro Wildlife Area located about 10 miles west of Rhinelander is a public hunting area that consists of 3,000 acres. The following recreational opportunities exist at Woodboro Wildlife Area: hunting, trapping, hiking, snowmobiling trail, auto travel (high clearance and four-wheel drive vehicles—no ATVs), berry picking, wildlife viewing, bird watching, and canoeing.

State Natural Areas (SNA)

State natural areas were acquired to protect the state's natural diversity, provide sites for research and environmental education, and serve as benchmarks for assessing and guiding use of other lands in the state. Natural areas are defined as tracts of land or water, which have native biotic communities, unique natural features, or significant geological or archeological sites. These sites do not have much facility development, though there may be a designated trail on the site.

The restrictions and guidelines that follow are applicable to most SNAs, though sites owned by agencies and organizations other than the DNR may have additional rules.

- Most SNAs are open to the public year around unless otherwise noted in the SNA site descriptions or posted at the site. SNAs within State Parks are generally open between 6:00 A.M. and 11:00 P.M.
- Please recognize and respect the property of private landowners adjacent to SNAs by not trespassing. Seek the landowner's permission before crossing private lands.
- Do not collect plants (including fruits, nuts, or edible plant parts), animals, fungi, rocks, minerals, fossils, archaeological artifacts, soil, downed wood, or any other natural material, alive or dead. Collecting for scientific research requires a permit issued by the DNR.

- Vehicles, including bicycles, ATVs, aircraft, and snowmobiles, are prohibited except on trails and roadways designated for their use. Access is only by foot, skis, snowshoes, and watercraft. Some trails are wheelchair accessible.
- Pets are allowed on most DNR-owned SNAs, but must be kept on a leash no longer than 8', unless they are dogs being used for hunting purposes. Pets are prohibited on sites owned by The Nature Conservancy and most other private conservation organizations. Horseback riding is not allowed.
- Camping and fires are generally prohibited.
- Rock climbing and rappelling are prohibited, except on SNAs #98 and #164.
- Fishing, trapping, and hunting are allowed on most DNR-owned properties in accordance with state regulations.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) listed eighteen areas within Oneida County. Each site was given a statewide identification (**No. #**) by the DNR, and are shown on Map 3 in the order found below (for example: #1 on Map 3 will represent Finnerund Pine Forest SNA):

1. ***Finnerud Pine Forest SNA (No. 31)*** is an UW-Madison Arboretum holding of old growth red pine. Contact the Arboretum at 608-263-7344 for access permission.
2. ***Rice Lake SNA (No. 40)*** is 1,030 acres located in the Thunder Lake Wildlife Area.
3. ***Holmboe Conifer Forest SNA (No. 79)*** is 32 acres located in the Town of Pelican.
4. ***Gobler Lake SNA (No. 115)*** is 470 acres located in the Town of Little Rice.
5. ***Stone Lake Pines SNA (No. 185)*** is 65 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Sugar Camp.
6. ***Wind Pudding Lake SNA (No. 188)*** is 340 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.
7. ***Patterson Hemlocks SNA (No. 216)*** is 304 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.
8. ***Atkins Lake SNA (No. 238)*** is 2,644 acres partially located in the Town of Piehl.
9. ***Tomahawk River Pines SNA (No. 239)*** is 1,040 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.
10. ***Squirrel River Pines SNA (No. 244)*** is 643 acres located in the Town of Minocqua.
11. ***Germain Hemlocks SNA (No. 355)*** is 88 acres located in the Town of Cassian.
12. ***Pat Shay Lake SNA (No. 446)*** is 736 acres partially located within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in the Town of Three Lakes.
13. ***Tomahawk Lake Hemlocks SNA (No. 510)*** is 244 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.
14. ***Two Lakes Pine-Oak Forest SNA (No. 511)*** is 112 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Lake Tomahawk.
15. ***Big Swamp SNA (No. 512)*** is 2,914 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Sugar Camp.
16. ***Rainbow Wetlands SNA (No. 513)*** is 2,357 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Newbold.
17. ***Shallow Lake SNA (No. 514)*** is 103 acres located within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in the Town of Newbold.
18. ***Spur Lake SNA (No. 537)*** is 71 acres located in the Town of Piehl.

State Forest

The *Northern Highland-American Legion (NH-AL) State Forest* occupies more than 225,000 acres in Vilas, Oneida and Iron counties. Outdoor recreational opportunities are diverse and abundant on the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest.

Visitors are drawn to the forest's **water resources**. The forest is blessed with one of the highest concentrations of lakes in the world, making sport fishing a major recreational activity.

Camping is another popular activity on the NH-AL. The forest offers 18 family campgrounds, plus two outdoor group camping areas. Two handicap accessible sites (one at Crystal Lake Campground and one at Firefly) have electrical hook-ups, and four campgrounds in all offer special facilities for disabled campers. In addition, 131 canoe and remote-reservable campsites are scattered throughout the forest for people wanting more private and primitive camping conditions. Backpack camping is also allowed by permit and deer hunter camping is seasonally available.

The forest has many **day use areas and trails**, including eight developed picnic areas; five interpretive nature trails totaling nearly eight miles in length; and three designated hiking trails totaling 18.5 miles. Other designated trails include 32 miles of mountain bike trails, 70 miles of cross-country ski trails and about 400 miles of snowmobile trails.

Recreational opportunities may be found on the forest at-large, in addition to those available at developed facilities. There are abundant small- and big-game **hunting and trapping opportunities**.

Hundreds of miles of logging roads and non-designated trails are open to all types of non-motorized uses, like hiking, skiing, horseback riding and mountain biking. Some unimproved roads are open and accessible to licensed motor vehicles, as well.

Finally, the NH-AL provides "**wild land**" recreation for those seeking a pristine and quiet backcountry experience in areas with few support facilities, motorized vehicles or signs of management activities.

Scenic Waters Area

The *Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area* is described as "almost Canada," because this flowage in Oneida County has a wild flavor. The area has more than 17,000 acres, 73 miles of shoreline, 106 islands, and seven boat landings. Rustic campsites around the shoreline and on the islands offer scenery and solitude. There are abundant walleye and panfish; northern pike, muskellunge, and bass; hunting and hiking opportunities; deer, bear, ruffed grouse, ducks, loons, and wolves.

4.7 FEDERAL FACILITIES

About 17,280 acres of the **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (Forest)** are located in Oneida County. Many outdoor recreational opportunities are available on the Forest that mainly exists within Forest County and Vilas County. No developed Forest recreational areas exist within Oneida County.

Recreational opportunities found on the Forest at-large include small- and big-game **hunting and trapping opportunities**. Hundreds of miles of logging roads and non-designated trails are open to all types of non-motorized uses, like **hiking, skiing, horseback riding and mountain biking**. Some unimproved roads are open and accessible to licensed motor vehicles, as well. Finally, the Forest provides **wilderness** recreation for those seeking a pristine and quiet backcountry experience in areas with few support facilities, motorized vehicles, or signs of management activities.

Wilderness Areas are the federal version of the state natural areas program. No federal wilderness areas exist in Oneida County.

4.8 FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE or COUNTY OWNED

The forested lands in Oneida County are comprised of county forest, state lands, and private lands held by individuals and corporations. Most corporate lands are enrolled in either the Forest Crop Law or the Managed Forest Law. Currently, lands can only be re-enrolled in Managed Forest Law.

Under the Forest Crop Law (FCL) 13,776 acres are open to the public to hunt and fish in 2008. There are 152,910 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program that are open to the public for hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, sightseeing, and hiking, and 41,069 acres that are closed to public access. All MFL program participants can restrict access without penalty to the landowner to areas that are within 300 feet of any building or harvesting operation. Snowmobiles, ATVs, bicycles, and other motorized and non-motorized vehicles are prohibited on enrolled lands that are open to the public.

Contact the WDNR to find what land is available to the public for the recreational purposes of hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, and sightseeing.

Chapter 5

OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Recreational needs within the county were identified in several ways. This chapter contains a list of projects and their completion status from the 2004-2008 Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan; public participation results from the Town and County levels; FLORD facility analysis, and a standards analysis to assist with defining recreational and open space needs.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROJECTS COMPLETED FROM 2004-2008

This is a list of recommended projects and their completion status from the 2004-2008 Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan. Each Oneida County FLORD listing below was either: Done, In Progress, Postponed, or Objective Eliminated. All other listings were completed through 2008.

Oneida County FLORD

Almond Recreational Area

- ADA compliant paved access to swimming beach and erosion control created **(Done)**;
- Playground equipment installed **(Postponed)**;
- Electrical service installation in shelter, at swimming beach, and at parking lot; **(Postponed)**
- Multi-use trail from parking lot to existing trails installed **(Objective Eliminated)**.

Townline Park

- Design campground **(Objective Eliminated or Postponed)**
- Regrade boat landings and asphalt pave **(Done)**;
- Install concrete boat launch pads **(Postponed)**;
- Reconstruct small boat landing pier **(Objective Eliminated or Postponed)**;
- Replace toilet facilities to be ADA compliant **(Postponed)**;
- Develop small overnight campground **(Objective Eliminated or Postponed)**; and
- Purchased additional water frontage **(Ongoing)**.

Perch Lake Park

- Trail development plans **(In Progress)**
- Regrade boat landings and asphalt pave **(Postponed)**;
- Build ADA boat launch pier **(Objective Eliminated or Postponed)**;
- Installed concrete boat launch pads **(Postponed)**; and
- Replaced toilet facilities to be ADA compliant **(In Progress)**.

Washburn Lake Recreational Trail System

- Develop new trail connecting Washburn and Cassian trails to Perch Lake **(In Progress)**;
- Build warming shelter/restroom/maintenance garage facility **(In Progress)**;
- Construct new Hwy K asphalt parking area with lights **(Objective Eliminated)**;
- Grade and widen existing trails **(In Progress)**; and
- Add electricity for lights at parking lots **(Done)**.

ATV Trails

- Add wetland crossing for new trail (**Done**); and
- Grade and brush new trail (**Done**).

Bass Lake Park

- Replace restrooms (**Objective Eliminated**);
- Grade parking lot and boat launch (**Postponed**);
- Install concrete boat launch pads (**Postponed**); and
- Construct boat launch pier (**Objective Eliminated**).

Enterprise Camp Sites

- Design campground in County Forest (**Done**);
- Grade and seed camping pads (**Done**); and
- Purchase and installed fire rings and picnic tables (**Done**).

Spruce Lake Waterfowl Management Area

- Dredged and riprapped around water control structure (**In Progress**); and
- Developed a boardwalk across wetland to link summer trail. (**Objective Eliminated or Postponed**)

Highway O Bridge

- Replace existing bridge (**Done**);
- Grade parking lot (**Done**); and
- Install concrete boat launch pads (**Postponed**).

Conversion of Burrows Lake Gravel Pit into intensive use ATV facility

- Grade and slope as necessary (**Objective Eliminated**);
- Purchase and install 1-mile of chain link fence (**Objective Eliminated**); and
- Purchase and install access gates at ATV park (**Objective Eliminated**).

City of Rhinelander

The City has chosen to create its own outdoor recreation plan.

Town of Cassian

- Constructed pavilion with picnic tables on Town owned property;

Sand Lake Beach:

- Added ADA compliant restrooms;
- Added 12'x28' block ADA compliant changing rooms;
- Established a picnic area with wood tables, and speed limit signs on Sand Lake Rd;

West Horsehead Lake Landing:

- Widened existing road leaning to launch area for cars and trailers;
- Created new dock and ramp; and

Tomahawk River Canoe Access Trail:

- Improved surface and solved erosion problems on trail.

Town of Hazelhurst

- Repaired Lake Katherine Beach park docks in 2005; and
- Regraveled McCormick Lake Landing in 2004.

Town of Newbold

- Developed a map/guide and installed signage to designate bicycle path routes.

Town of Lake Tomahawk

Lake Tomahawk Park:

- Expanded the paved parking area;
- Developed a sand volleyball court;
- Installed new boat launch pads for both sides of the new pier;

Other Improvements:

- Investigated developing old railroad bed for use as a hike/bike trail (currently snowmobile);
- Signed a series of on-road bicycle routes.

Town of Three Lakes

Don Burnside Recreational Park:

- Installed new playground equipment;
- Constructed storage building for park maintenance equipment and supplies;
- Constructed a restroom facility adjacent to the snowmobile park area;

Cy Williams Park:

- Developed ADA compliant toilet facility onto the Information Bureau building;
- Hooked up the restroom/changing area to sanitary sewer and water lines; and
- Added playground equipment.

Phyllis B. Felland Memorial Water Ski Park

- Constructed new storage and concession stand; and
- Replaced wood bleachers with two sets of 50-seat aluminum bleachers.

Developed boat ramps at Townline Lake, Medicine Lake, and Big Fork Lake.

Town of Woodruff

Brandy Park:

- Improved existing changing house/restroom facility for better handicapped accessibility;
- Build ADA accessible path linking the changing house/restroom with the parking lot; and
- Developed skate park facility.

Town of Sugar Camp

- Improved third baseball field up to Babe Ruth specifications in Lions Park; and
- Created a classic snowmobile racetrack in 2007.

5.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Informal Public Input

In the regular course of business, Oneida County Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Department staff have received public input about its parks, and forests.

Summary of City Council and Town Board Survey Responses

Completed surveys were received from the Towns of Cassian, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Monico, Newbold, Pine Lake, Sugar Camp, Three Lakes, and Woodruff. Each Town that did not reply to the first survey was mailed a second survey, and was called by phone to solicit a response.

Survey responses are grouped under the headings below. The Towns of Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, Monico, Newbold, and Pine Lake had no response in any of the following categories. All remaining respondents did not choose three issues.

Top Outdoor Recreation Issues Facing Oneida County
Each "X" represents 1 community agreeing that it is an issue.

| | |
|---|----|
| Funding problems to complete requested hiking and biking trails | X |
| Public camping facilities needed on county or state land | X |
| Snowmobile trail access | X |
| ATV trail creation | XX |
| Non-motorized use | X |
| Budgetary limitations | X |
| None | X |
| Ask the people who live in the County | X |

How to Satisfy Oneida County Outdoor Recreational Issues

| | |
|--|---|
| Possibly collecting more registration or user fees | X |
| Open more ATV trails | X |
| Secure deeded easements for trails | X |
| Budgetary limitations | X |
| Like most things, someone needs to do it | X |

What Existing Outdoor Recreation Facilities in Oneida County Need Improvement

| | |
|------|---|
| None | X |
|------|---|

Some communities described what outdoor recreational issues face their community, and how they plan to satisfy those issues:

Town of Enterprise would like more access to Oneida County Forest land, and would like the berms removed from the trails in the County Forest.

Top 3 Outdoor Recreation Issues in the **Town of Monico** are:

1. Snowmobile trail access
2. ATV trail access
3. Non-motorized use

Securing deeded easements for trails should satisfy these local issues.

Town of Cassian frequently receives calls for completing more biking trails by a small group of activists, along with some requests for more camping and ATV trails in closer proximity to the Town.

Public Meetings Input

Two public meetings and an extended public comment period were held. Local newspapers advertised the public meetings. Outdoor recreation groups were notified directly about the first public comment meeting via a survey with the first meeting advertised on it. Based upon public comment at the second meeting on February 19th, it was conveyed to the Committee that several non-motorized groups were not notified in the same way that the motorized groups were notified of this planning process. The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Committee extended the public comment period to March 20, 2009, to accept more views that may have been missed.

Public Meeting #1

The public meeting was held between 6:00-8:00 p.m. on May 28, 2008 in the Oneida County Board Room in Rhinelander.

An Outdoor Recreation Meeting for the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD) managed facilities was held on May 28, 2008. Each survey sent to the Towns and a variety of outdoor recreation groups advertised this meeting.

NCWRPC note: Many outdoor recreation groups are not organized into clubs. Notice that on page B-7 in Attachment B of this Plan that the first four entries from the top in Table B-1 do not have user groups. These unrepresented groups usually do not attend public meetings if they are tourists or when they think that the existing facilities are adequate. Those four groups represent about 40% of the population. This is why a professional forester or recreation coordinator is needed to understand all user group desires and the natural resource base, then make determinations as to satisfying most users within the County Budget, and also remain consistent with the 15-year Comprehensive Forest Land Use Plan.

The following items were available for downloading from an NCWRPC web page for this plan:

1. List of Projects completed from 2004-2008
2. Possible 2009-2013 Goals and Objectives
3. Past and Proposed Future Recommendations

GENERAL COMMENTS from Public Meeting #1

- Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Council read the following statement:

May 28, 2008

Oneida County Forestry, Land and Outdoor Recreation Department
Five Year Recreation Plan for 2009-2013

The Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Council is dedicated to making Oneida County more bike-able and walk-able. We work to create and maintain trails, routes and pathways that support people-powered activity. We have cooperated with the Oneida County Health Department to promote outdoor physical activity as a means of improving the quality of life for all people who live in or visit Oneida County.

FLORD's support of "silent sport" trails in the County Forest lands brings great social benefit to all residents and visitors in Oneida County. This includes many documented health benefits as well as economic benefits due to the preservation of the pristine natural environment that attracts visitors to this area.

In contrast, support of motorized "recreation" contributes to air pollution, destruction of fragile ecosystems, wasteful consumption of fossil fuels, transport of exotic invasive species, disruption of an otherwise tranquil environment and increased risk of personal injury and property damage. Clearly, County resources should be reserved for more constructive and socially beneficial forms of recreation. We urge FLORD to increase opportunities for silent sports activities. Please make this the primary focus of the Five Year Recreation Plan.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and others in County government toward the development, maintenance and improvement of biking and walking trails in Oneida County.

Tom Rulseh

Secretary, Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Council

- Tourism of silent sport locations is important in Oneida County.
 - Cassian/Woodboro linear trail is very good.
 - Use the Cassian/Woodboro county forest block for a motorized free zone.
 - Don't kick out existing snowmobile trails from this forest block.
 - Hunting is considered a silent sport and an indigenous activity to the area.
 - Add bike lanes or wide paved shoulders to highways.
- Expand ATV trails.

Public Meeting #1 Comments

Public Meeting #1 Comments

- Expanding ATV trails costs nothing to county taxpayers.
- Many people choose motorized vehicles to recreate on.
- Tourism from ATVerS brings money into Oneida County.
- Trout Unlimited.
 - Concerned about any new trails producing erosion into surface waters.
- Biking has brought in tourism dollars to Oneida County.
- Great job FLORD on providing for all outdoor recreation groups.

John Bilogan:

- About bike routes, which do you prefer: a means of alternative transportation, or scenic trails that are off-road?

Public response:

- Health wise, an off-road path would be best.
- Scenic trails would bring in tourism.
- Any location for a bike trail would be welcome.
- Signing some direct paved roads for biking would be a good idea to use local knowledge to help tourists out.

Additional Written Comments

May 28, 2008

Lee Swank

Township of Crescent

I am in strong support of keeping a specific area for silent sports free from year-a-round motorized activity.

May 28, 2008

R. Pantalone

Township of Newbold

I think that those who are interested in "silent sports" are a different group of people than those who prefer ATV's. Both groups should be counted with separate plans. Promoting the more "healthy" activities will in the long run be more beneficial to the county and those who they attract. In general it is a more affluent population who can contribute above and beyond just spending money and buying gas. At the same time the county's economic outlay need not be that significant (bike paths, hiking trails).

May 28, 2008

Ruth Sprovll

Town of Newbold

Continue to encourage and support development, which promotes the health of our natural areas – silent sports. Would fulfill this goal as well as contributing to the physical health of Oneida County Citizens. Motorized use of

City land would NOT be consistent as it would disturb wildlife, soil and forest flora – it would also do nothing to encourage healthy behavior of Oneida County Citizens.

Public Meeting #1 Comments

May 28, 2008

Bob Abel

Township of Crescent

Support more silent sport trails, which are not infringed on by motorized sports.

Strongly support adding bike lane to Hwy K.

May 28, 2008

Brian Hegge

Township of Crescent

Northern Wisconsin – Vilas County – has stood up and voted against any more ATV trails. How about Oneida doing the same? The WDNR committee also discovered a lack of support for trails through the state forests in Vilas and Oneida County. Lets make the Cassia – Woodboro Forest ATV Free!

May 28, 2008

Brian Hegge – Northwoods Chapter of Trout Unlimited

The Northwoods Chapter has recently funded habitat work on Woodboro Springs and along the Bearskin. This work was done to promote our area's coldwater fisheries and improve those resources. To that end, we would hope that future development in the Cassia – Woodboro forest would promote and preserve the "quiet" integrity of the area and maintain "silent sports" in the area. While we are not aware of any future ATV in the area, we would hope that none are planned or proposed that may impact coldwater resources or alter the serenity of the forests!

Public Meeting #1 Comments

FLOR Committee Discussion

- FLORC recognizes that developing County Board support and funding for new recreational facilities and programs can be a major project in itself.
- Some revenue from county forest timber sales should go into FLORD first, then the remainder placed in the general fund.
- The proposed Eco-Industrial Park in Rhinelander should have and maintain recreational trails.

– End of Public Meeting #1 comments –

Public Meeting #2

The public meeting was held between 6:00–8:00 pm on February 19, 2009 in the Oneida County Board room in Rhinelander.

Area residents were able to view a draft of the proposed plan at the Minocqua, Rhinelander, and Nicolet College libraries; the Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Department office; and on the Internet. Each library had posters that announced this meeting, public notices were sent to the media, and a front page story was run in the Rhinelander Daily News before the meeting.

GENERAL COMMENTS from Public Meeting #2

Committee Chair Wilbur Petroskey
Opened the meeting.

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director; and Fred Heider, NCWRPC
Provided some opening comments and an overview of the plan and planning process.

Jack Dunbar
Make ATV trail on property. Not on town roads though. We lost a route from Lake Tomahawk to Sayner. ATV money made the Boulder Junction bike trail. We need a plan to facilitate receiving ATV money to make trails. We need to make places to ride ATVs, like Little Rice to Cassian.

Gary Baier, Committee Member
Nokomis and little Rice Town Board Chairmen are in constant communication about how to create new ATV trails. Bikes and snowmobiles share the same trails. Connect Enterprise Block into Vilas Co. We could have ATV routes in all four corners of the county. Silent sports can easily be accommodated too. Woodboro can make a trail and connect over county land.

Tom Lynn
An ATV Club is forming in Minocqua. Most ATV demographics coming into the Minocqua store are 70+ years old and are local residents who want to use ATVs to visit neighbors. Minocqua ordinance was established to allow winter road use of ATVs and to access frozen lakes. Trying to get county land to link up Little Rice trails to the south part of Willow Flowage. We need to link our ATV trails throughout the county, and connect to other counties. We need a master plan. What happened to this trail: Sheeplake Road ATV trail to ????

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director
We got some stakeholders from Vilas, Iron, and Oneida county board members together to discuss how to connect ATV trails. Potentially parallel to STH 47. I proposed that we follow trail roadbed south through Northern Highland-American Legion (NH-AL) land. Costs came back and they were astronomical so it was shot down. NRB rejected it because of the very high cost.

Ed Cherwinski
Commenting about how much support from construction equipment owners exists to help create trails for ATVs. I have four ATVs. I have nothing against silent sports. Give us a chance to organize and prove ourselves. There will always be a bad apple in every group.

Public Meeting #2 Comments

Public Meeting #2 Comments

Matt Madison

I was on NH-AL ATV trail creating board. Kudos to John Bilogan on the NH-AL board. ATVs and silent sports can co-exist.

Les Felbab

Talking about Stimulus Bill. Could we use Stimulus money to create ATV trails?

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director

Several Stimulus Bill projects came through my office, but no ATV projects.

Les Felbab

There are no snowmobile people at this meeting. I know that ATVing comes from ATV registrations. The county mainly paid for a nice new shelter, only \$30,000 came from donations. ATVs bring in a lot of money that we should use to build ATV trails. You can ride anywhere in Michigan, most of which is on public land. You can ride on road shoulders too.

Pat Harkens

Rhineland native, and a member of ATV and snowmobile clubs. Snowmobile routes took a long time to create. None of these trails came overnight. By state law, we can ride snowmobile to the nearest road, but ATVs don't have the same right. We need to change state law to allow the same. It's an education process to show that ATVs are quieter than loud boats. Maybe we can connect several trails... Some town chairmen are not for it because their residents are against it.

Gary Baier, Committee Member

Most snowmobile owners have ATVs. Airplane crash victim donated money to Nokomis to purchase an ATV for search and rescue. ATVs could be very useful to help access people in ice storms. Story about casually using ends of roads, or the handicapped using ATVs to enjoy the outdoors. Park Falls allows ATVs in downtown, and we can't use ATVs in the forest in Oneida County. I don't think that we have enough ATV trails. We need to connect the ones we have.

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director

Responded to comments. If the ATV clubs come together with a good proposal, then we can get them 100% funded, and there is maintenance money too. We lost trail access when paper company land changed corporate ownership. We may need to try again when new owners may be more favorable. ATVs seem to have a public perception biased against them. The north-south route could have worked, but didn't, but maybe should be pursued again. An east-west route is needed, but that would cross private property, and clubs could organize and then maybe this could result.

Kathleen Joppa

Statement about the cultural understanding about ATVs and snowmobiles. Story about ATVs tearing up trails out west. Story about hiking in Oneida Co. and the ATVer's were very friendly. I understand using ATVs to assist disabled people's mobility. We must be cautious about aggravating one group against another. We must still keep quiet places quiet. This is a quality of life issue. We should not rush so fast that we destroy the woodlands.

Patsy Peters, Committee Member

I am not an outdoor girl, but I want an ATV to ride in the woods.

Public Meeting #2 Comments

Public Meeting #2 Comments

Paul Aster

Silent sport lover. No ATVs ripping up the trails near my property. There were noisy ATVs traveling along power lines, but that has vanished once the trails opened. Ice Age Trail area is very quiet. Not unusual to see heavy use of ATV trails, and the users have kept it clean and stopped problems. We need to have time-share trails. Trails would be quiet on certain days, and then allow ATVs on other days. ATVs are very useful for emergency use on the trails when someone gets hurt. ATVs are very helpful in ice storms. We need restrictions on ATV noise levels, especially when animals are sensitive like during nesting, or mating seasons. Maybe tax credits could assist with private property owners allowing ATVs. This could be done on a trial basis to win over more private landowners. Lincoln County has an extensive ATV system, which has turned out well.

Jay Joppa

Question: Were all outdoor rec. groups notified of this meeting?

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director

We want to get everyone to weigh in on this plan.

Jay Joppa

Not surprised that only ATV trails are being spoken of. If we are talking about ATV corridors, then I agree with that. If we have many tangents off that route, then we really need more input. We should not allow ATVs on paved roads, because of safety concerns. Langlade, Lincoln, Forest Counties all have ATVs, story about personally having negative impressions about how ATVers interacted with me regarding dust and noise pollution.

Gary Baier, Committee Member

Please don't take it out on any one group.

Jay Joppa

Please add these two items to the 5-year plan:

1. Please limit fragmentation of large forest blocks with roads, or cross country ski trails.
2. North end of Cassian trail, please allow dogs.

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director

Reminded committee that many written comments came in and they also will be incorporated into this 5-year plan.

Committee Chair Wilbur Petroskey, and Fred Heider, NCWRPC

Reminded public to provide written comments if they did not want to speak at this meeting.

Catherine Joppa

The forest is very big. When a motor goes down a path, it's affecting a wide swath based upon its noise. A good goal when developing trails is not to fragment the forest.

Al Sachse

Spoke about how the Upper Peninsula and ATVs are co-existing. ATV trails are a great idea.

Gary Baier, Committee Member

Our committee task is to provide for the needs of all Oneida residents. Story about Hwy 51 access, and needing to maintain the land for everyone. Nokomis is very impressed... We all need to work together when trail ideas come in.

Random comment

Is there a part in this plan for food plots for wildlife? We need food plots to maintain wildlife.

Sandy England

Husband is ATV user and a silent sport user. There is plenty of land to allow all users. Regardless of user group, there are bad apples in every group. Bicycles – Bike route in front of house. They would be 4 wide in the middle of the road. They are not supposed to be 4 wide. That is a bad representation for bikes, but most are not bad.

Tom Rudolph, Committee Member

There is probably a place in the county forest for all users. Maybe we should section off the forest to allow non-motorized in Cassian–Woodboro forest block. The Judy Swank pavilion is great. Very happy to see the development of ATV routes in the Enterprise forest block. It is a good example of a well planned trail system, and I applaud the trail group that monitors it. There is a shaky reputation for ATV users. This is a chance to change that attitude, and if routes are planned with other users in mind, then public perception may change. This 5-year plan is not close to final; based upon maybe not enough groups have the opportunity to respond.

Matt Matteson

Many ATV people are in the audience tonight. I am not against silent sports. I will not vote against them. There were personal attacks. I thank the silent sport groups, and I'd like to thank the committee to become more open to all the groups. I don't think it would be practical for every group to have...

Gary Baier, Committee Member

Can we get an outdoor recreation plan copy to each town hall?

Deb Wall

Silent sport enthusiast. Can we get a copy at our next group meeting? I want all groups to be heard when you develop this plan.

John Bilogan, Oneida Forestry Director

Defended process. This is the second meeting.

Paul Fiene, Oneida Forestry Assistant Director

This document does not tell what will happen, but what may occur. Not all noted items may happen in this plan.

Committee Chair Wilbur Petroskey

Closed the meeting by thanking everyone who came tonight.

Additional Written Comments taken at Public Meeting #2:

February 19, 2009

Les Felbab

Please install electric power at the Enterprise Campground. Please put the generator away from the campground so I don't have to listen to the wind blades going around. Thanks.

February 19, 2009

Unidentified female

Please develop information to educate the public about forest health. Maybe describe silvicultural procedures that enhance the forest, and how the flora and fauna are a part of forest health.

– End of Public Meeting #2 comments –

Based upon public comment at Public Meeting #2, it was conveyed to the Committee that several non-motorized groups were not notified in the same way that the motorized groups were notified of this planning process. The Committee extended public comment period to March 20. NCWRPC mailed 2 additional copies of the draft plan to each library for them to loan out, because their original draft plan was only available in the Reference section. NCWRPC and County Forestry staff sought email or postal addresses of additional non-motorized groups, and NCWRPC mailed an outdoor recreation survey and cover letter to each of the additional groups. A survey for outdoor recreation groups was also posted on the Oneida ORP web page. Each town was mailed 2 yellow posters to hang up that publicized the additional public comment period, and where they could check out a copy of the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (February 19–March 20, 2009)

All comments received during this public comment period are in Attachment C, and are summarized in the following paragraphs:

Public Comment Period

Numerous written and oral comments were received from the general public pertaining to the Oneida County 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan. The vast majority of the comments received could be generally categorized into two groups. Group 1 would represent public comments received from silent sport recreational enthusiasts. The centralized themes repeated in most of these comments were: a) the desire for the County to develop more silent sport trails for hiking, biking, and cross country skiing; and b) for some of these trails to be isolated from motorized uses during the same season of the year. Group 2 would represent public comments received from motorized recreational sport enthusiasts. Most of the comments in this group were from individuals that would like additional All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails developed in Oneida County for enjoyment in the county, and to connect to other trail systems in adjacent counties.

Many individuals and non-motorized groups requested that a non-motorized area exist in the Cassian-Woodboro forest block.

Additional trails of all types were requested. See Table 10 on page 58.

– End of Public Comment Period remarks –

5.4 GENERAL COUNTY FACILITY ASSESSMENT

Staff from the Oneida County Forestry Department projected what recreational needs face Oneida County during the next 5-years. Specific park capital improvement tables start on page 55.

- Use of the Townline Park swimming beach has decreased dramatically over the past 5-years. Decreased use of the Townline Park swimming beach is attributed to several factors: 1) an extended drought over the past 5-years has lowered the lake level several feet below the ordinary high water mark, and 2) a rapid increase in the amount of Purple Bladderwort (*Utricularia pururea*), a free-floating aquatic plant found in the Townline Lake. These two factors have almost completely halted the use of the Townline Park swimming beach. In addition, the toilet building located at the Townline Park swimming beach is approximately 25-years old and in need of repairs. With these factors in mind The Forestry Department is recommending that the Townline Park swimming beach be abandon, and that the existing toilet building be demolished and sealed. Furthermore, money saved by avoiding costly repairs and the associated costs of maintaining of this facility could be better utilized by other County Recreational facilities with much higher public use.
- Use of the Bass Lake Picnic Area has traditionally been low. The existing toilet buildings at the Bass Lake Picnic Area are not ADA accessible, are over 25-years old, and in need of major repairs or replacement. Based upon the observations described above, The Forestry Department is recommending that they Bass Lake Picnic Area be abandon, and that the existing toilet buildings be demolished and sealed. Furthermore, money saved by avoiding costly repairs and the associated costs of maintaining of this facility could be better utilized by other County Recreational facilities with much higher public use.

5.5 NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

Since the 1960's, an accepted practice has been to adopt a uniform national land standard, such as 10 acres per 1000 population, for park planning. A standard amount of land for parks and recreation cannot be universal for a park. A standard land measure is only useful for specific facilities like determining how much land is needed for a specific use like a baseball diamond. The number of baseball diamonds and other facilities are not the same among similar sized communities nationally.

The basis of this revised approach to park and recreation standards is to create a level of service as defined by the customers' needs rather than an arbitrary standard. The level of service is generated locally for each type of park, trail, or public access to a water body. Public input is collected in multiple ways and the needs for a particular park, trail, or public access to a water body are determined. When specific facilities are needed, then facility standards are used to design the facility and budget for the necessary land, materials, and labor to satisfy that need.

A needs driven and facilities based park planning approach presents the current demand for park and recreation opportunities. The size of a park site is determined by the number of facilities needed to satisfy the active recreation demand within the service area of each park, and the unprogrammed recreation land that buffers different uses within a park and which buffers the park from other non-park uses such as residential housing. Determining the space needs for

unprogrammed land is subjective and objective based on first hand knowledge of the area and how community residents and tourists use the parks. Determining how much unprogrammed land to use for buffering parks is subjective based upon how aesthetically pleasing an area should be, and what the surrounding land uses are.

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:

1. Physical geography. Does the site have steep hills, woodlands, or wetlands? Such natural features are useful for exploration, conservation, aesthetic buffers, and unprogrammed lands.
2. Park facilities. What activities are allowed or will be allowed? How much land is needed for each use?
3. Unprogrammed buffers. How much land within the park is needed to separate different uses? How much land is needed for future expansion? Maybe a park will not expand within 2-years, but within 10-20 years expansion may be imminent. When the opportunity to buy land exists, then reaction must be swift to seize the opportunity. A park growth boundary should be created for this reason.

Chapter 6

ONEIDA COUNTY FACILITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

These goals and objectives are meant to guide the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD) as they work towards providing a recreation system to meet the needs of Oneida County's residents and visitors to the area. At a public meeting advertised to the public, these goals and objectives were approved by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Committee. Local governments may have different goals and objectives. Specific capital improvement plan tables created to satisfy these goals and objectives exist in Chapter 7—Recommendations.

The development of an efficient outdoor recreation plan depends upon establishing specific recreation and open-space goals and objectives from public participation. A **goal** is a general statement of a desirable end or ultimate purpose toward which planning efforts should be directed. **Goals** are broad and may apply over a long time frame. An **objective** is a specific short-range statement of a desired end. The completion of **objectives** shows progress toward goal achievement.

Goal 1: Acquire and develop land for parks, open space, and natural and cultural resource protection.

- Objectives:
1. Use county outdoor recreation plan and county forest comprehensive land use plan to guide acquisition and development decisions.
 2. Maintain and improve existing recreational facilities as outlined in the 5-year capital improvement tables as opportunities and funding sources become available.

Goal 2: Promote and practice sound resource management to protect lands and waters.

Objective: Use best management practices when developing recreation facilities.

Goal 3: Assist local governments with providing local outdoor recreation facilities.

Objective: Encourage local governments to add their capital improvement projects into county outdoor recreation plan.

Goal 4: Support identification, preservation, and restoration of areas with scientific, cultural, or historic significance.

Objective: Review existing county forest parcels to become new state natural areas.

Chapter 7

RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The following recommendations are aimed at satisfying needs identified to build Oneida County's status as a prime recreation and natural resource area, and to provide recreation facilities for all Oneida County residents and the surrounding tourism region.

The recommendations are based on the needs assessments documented in Chapter 5, and the goals and objectives listed in Chapter 6. Although it is unlikely that all recommendations presented in this plan will be undertaken in the next five years, they should be recognized as causes for action if the opportunity or need arises. Various government jurisdictions are named in the following recommendations, but the authority of this plan only relates to applications for state and federal money through the DNR. Projects listed in this chapter receive a higher application rating.

7.2 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- DNR and Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company to review and possibly add additional boat landings and campsites to the west side of the Willow Flowage.
- Consider not developing any motorized trail systems in the Cassian-Woodboro forest block. All county forest blocks are active forests, therefore logging trucks and any service vehicles will always be allowed. All existing snowmobile routes will remain. Any future motorized trails needed to connect other motorized trails will be allowed through the Cassian-Woodboro forest block.
- Oneida County Highway Department to review and possibly add paved shoulders, or grade separated trails for bicycles to county highways. Map 2 in this plan shows proposed on road and off road bike trails, many of which are in county highway right-of-ways.

7.3 COUNTY FLORD FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Postponed in the 2004-2008, Recommended between 2009-2013

- Installation of playground equipment at Almon Park.
- Run electricity to Almon Park Upper Shelter.
- Install concrete boat launching pads at Townline Park.
- Replace toilet buildings at Townline Park.
- Rehabilitate boat landing at Perch Lake (grade/gravel).
- Install concrete boat launching pads at Perch Lake.
- Pave trailhead parking lot at Washburn Lake Road.
- Rehabilitate boat landing at Bass Lake (grade/gravel).
- Install concrete boat launching pads at Bass Lake.
- Install concrete boat launching pads at Hwy O Landing.

On Going Recommendations from 2004-2008

- Purchase additional Townline Lake frontage adjacent to Townline Park.

New Recommendations for 2009-2013

- Recognize that developing County Board Support and funding for new recreational facilities and programs can be a major project by itself.
- Repair erosion along Townline Park shoreline.
- Continue program of inspecting and rehabilitation recreational trail bridges as needed.
- Replace shelters at Almon Park.
- Develop a use plan for upper level at Townline Park.
- Pave access road at Enterprise Forest Campground.
- Develop additional campsites at the Enterprise Forest Campground as dictated by usage.
- Repave existing parking lots at day use parks.

7.4 TOWN OF LYNNE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Work with County to have Lynne develop and maintain a campground, restrooms, and park at the Willow Rapids Picnic Area.
- Discuss land ownership of Willow Rapids Picnic Area between County and Lynne.

7.5 TOWN OF MONICO RECOMMENDATIONS

- Add riprap at the beach.
- Construct restroom facilities at the baseball park.
- Construct fishing pier as Mars Lake boat landing.
- Install new playground equipment at Town Hall Park.
- Develop a small park within the Town Center.

7.6 TOWN OF PINE LAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve Moens Lake boat landing.

7.7 TOWN OF THREE LAKES RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop outdoor sand volleyball court, and install horseshoe pit at Don Burnside Recreational Park.
- Remodel concession stand at lighted softball diamond.
- Develop annual horse show events.
- Level and grade existing properties to develop soccer fields.
- Expand park boundaries.
- Complete Phase Two of the Three Eagle Trail (northern segment), which is approximately 3.8 miles long.

7.8 TOWN OF SUGAR CAMP RECOMMENDATIONS

- Install a well for icing the snowmobile track and provide water to ball fields.
- Install 4-foot cyclone fence around snowmobile track.

7.9 COUNTY FLORD CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2009–2013

Capital improvements to parks are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. Capital improvements are designed and funded individually through segregated municipal funds. Routine maintenance is considered the normal cycle of repair and upkeep for existing facilities. Routine maintenance does not increase the value or usefulness of the park, and is traditionally funded through the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department's operations budget, and through local government budgets. Non-routine maintenance of park facilities, however, is usually considered a capital improvement item. For example, upgrading an outdoor restroom facility for universal access would qualify as a capital improvement, while repainting an outdoor restroom would be considered routine maintenance.

The capital improvement framework for each facility is a combination of several types of projects. These projects are ranked according to their importance and priority in the overall development of the facility. Capital improvements are ranked as follows:

1. Improvements to existing facilities:
 - a) To correct health and safety hazards;
 - b) To update deficient facilities; and
 - c) To modernize adequate but outdated facilities.
2. Installation of facilities as deemed necessary through citizen participation.
3. Development of new facilities as found necessary through comparison to park and recreation standards, and public comment.

What was eliminated?

Table 3 is a list of capital improvement projects from the 2004-2008 Oneida County 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan that are no longer being pursued by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD).

| Table 3 Projects No Longer Being Pursued By FLORD From 2004–2008 Plan | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| Project Location | Project Description | Estimated Cost |
| Almon Park | Develop multi-use trail from parking lot | \$5,000 |
| Townline Park | Construct small boat landing pier | \$2,500 |
| Townline Park | Purchase additional land adjacent to park | \$75,000 |
| Townline Park | Install concrete boat landing trailer pads | \$4,000 |
| Perch Lake Park | Asphalt Perch Lake Boat Landing | \$10,000 |
| Perch Lake Park | Construct small boat landing pier | \$2,500 |
| Washburn Trail | Construct new parking lot (Hwy K area) | \$15,000 |
| Washburn Trail | Install lights at existing parking | \$5,000 |
| Spruce Lake | Develop boardwalk across wetland | \$75,000 |
| Bass Lake | Replace existing toilet buildings | \$30,000 |
| Bass Lake | Install concrete boat landing trailer pads | \$4,000 |
| Hwy O Bridge | Install concrete boat landing trailer pads | \$8,000 |
| Burrows Lake Pit | Conversion of pit into ATV Park | \$52,500 |
| Total Estimated Cost | | \$288,500 |

What was accomplished?

Table 4 is a list of capital improvement projects described in the 2004-2008 Oneida County 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan that have been completed by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD).

| Table 4 Completed Projects By FLORD From 2004–2008 Plan | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Project Location | Project Description | Cost |
| Almon Park | Prepare Access rehabilitation plan and engineering | \$3,500 |
| Almon Park | Improved asphalt access path to swimming beach | \$35,777 |
| Townline Park | Regrade and asphalt boat landing | \$3,000 |
| Perch Lake Park | Construction/Engineering Plans | Donation |
| Perch Lake Park | Build new parking lot | \$11,000 |
| Perch Lake Park | Build warming shelter/ maintenance garage | \$134,560 |
| Perch Lake Park | Replace restroom facility (ADA compliant) | \$35,000 |
| Washburn Trail | Develop multi-use connection trails to Perch Lake | \$5,000 |
| Enterprise Campground | Land survey and engineering | \$8,978 |
| Enterprise Campground | Construct campground loop road | \$30,123 |
| Enterprise Campground | Brush grad and develop 11 campsites | \$11,730 |
| Enterprise Campground | Build two pit toilet buildings | \$63,618 |
| Enterprise Campground | Campground wells, fire rings, picnic tables, and signs | \$18,821 |
| Hwy O Bridge | Engineered plans for new clear span bridge | \$35,895 |
| Hwy O Bridge | Replace existing bridge | \$293,623 |
| ATV Trail | Develop new ATV Trail | \$23,500 |
| ATV Trail | ATV Trail Amenities Shelter Building, Loading Ramp | \$9,391 |
| Total Cost | | \$723,516 |

What is projected to occur?

The following tables are Capital Improvement Plans proposed for the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (FLORD) managed recreational system. The projects are not listed in a priority and are subject to change. The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department created each capital improvement plan. All upgrades and new construction will take into consideration meeting ADA standards. As funds become available, the following projects will be completed.

| Table 5 Townline Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan | |
|---|------------------|
| Start Year of Plan 2009 | Estimated Cost |
| Design small campground facility | \$5,000 |
| Develop small overnight campground | \$40,000 |
| Shoreline restoration/erosion repair | \$30,000 |
| Replace 2 toilet buildings (upper level) | \$40,000 |
| Abandon toilet building & swimming beach | \$7,500 |
| Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan | \$122,500 |

| Table 6 | | Perch Lake Park Five Year Capital Improvement Plan | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Start Year of Plan 2009 | | Estimated Cost | |
| Expand parking lot | | \$15,000 | |
| Pave parking lot | | \$20,000 | |
| Surveillance system | | \$5,000 | |
| Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan | | \$40,000 | |

| Table 7 | | Enterprise Camp Sites Five Year Capital Improvement Plan | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Start Year of Plan 2009 | | Estimated Cost | |
| Pave campground loop road | | \$60,000 | |
| Construct covered firewood storage area | | \$3,000 | |
| Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan | | \$63,000 | |

| Table 8 | | Bass Lake Picnic Area Five Year Capital Improvement Plan | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Start Year of Plan 2009 | | Estimated Cost | |
| Abandon toilet buildings & close picnic area | | \$4,000 | |
| Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan | | \$4,000 | |

| Table 9 | | Almon Recreational Area Five Year Capital Improvement Plan | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Start Year of Plan 2009 | | Estimated Cost | |
| Prepare plan and engineering | | \$8,000 | |
| Asphalt maintenance road to lower level of park | | \$50,000 | |
| Playground equipment | | \$17,000 | |
| Bring electric power to shelter, swimming beach, and parking lot | | \$12,000 | |
| Repair, resurface, seal existing asphalt infrastructure | | \$30,000 | |
| Surveillance system | | \$5,000 | |
| Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan | | \$122,000 | |

Numerous written and oral comments were received from the general public pertaining to the Oneida County 5-Year Outdoor Recreation Plan (documented in Attachment C). The vast majority of the comments received could be generally categorized into two groups. Group 1 would represent public comments received from silent sport recreational enthusiasts. The centralized themes repeated in most of these comments were: a) the desire for the County to develop more silent sport trails for hiking, biking, and cross country skiing; and b) for some of these trails to be isolated from motorized uses during the same season of the year. Group 2 would represent public comments received from motorized recreational sport enthusiasts. Most of the comments in this group were from individuals that would like additional All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails developed in Oneida County for enjoyment in the county, and to connect to other trail systems in adjacent counties.

Unfortunately, silent sport enthusiasts and motorized sport enthusiasts are at opposite ends of the recreational spectrum. If a large block of the County Forest is dedicated toward the development of recreational opportunities desired by one group, the recreational opportunities desired by the other group could be perceived as being discriminated against. To that end, the success of future recreational trail development in Oneida County greatly depends on a) a thorough understanding of how each recreational opportunity affects other recreational opportunities; b) a carefully designed and balanced approach to creating trails; and c) a willingness of users to co-exist.

| Table 10 | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Recreational Trails | |
| Five Year Capital Improvement Plan | |
| Start Year of Plan 2009 | Estimated Cost |
| Expand existing network of silent sport trails (skiing, biking, & hiking) | \$25,000 |
| Expand existing network of motorized sport trails (ATV & snowmobile) | \$50,000 |
| | |
| Total Estimated Cost for Five Year Plan | \$75,000 |

Chapter 8

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

8.1 INTRODUCTION

There are a number of different strategies available for the implementation of this plan. This includes securing funds to carry out the five year planning program and adopting techniques to carry out the general recommendations and to move towards attainment of the goals and objectives set forth in this plan.

8.2 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The following strategies are listed in alphabetical order.

Capital Improvements

Community officials should develop five-year capital improvements programs for recreation that reflect implementation of proposals made in their plans and the priorities they place on them. To be functional, the program must be flexible and be subjected to annual review.

In developing a recreation program, care should be taken that the annual cost of maintenance does not exceed an amount the community can afford to pay. Too often, an ambitious program can lose community support as a result of prohibitive maintenance costs.

Community Beautification

All communities should recognize that community appearance is an important component of a recreation program. Maintained streets and sidewalks, attractive trees and shrubs, well cared for homes and commercial buildings, and neatly landscaped home lawns, public open space, and parks are principal contributors to community beautification. Such a program is most rewarding to persons engaged in passive recreation.

Future Planning

At a minimum, all communities should reassess their recreational needs near the end of the five-year period covered by this plan. More frequent appraisal of needs may be called for under certain conditions such as extreme variations in funding capability, rapid population changes, actions of other units of government and private enterprise, and the recognition of new legislation, laws, and public programs.

Historic Sites

Historical sites can be rewarding additions to any community's recreation program. This is especially true in areas oriented to serving a significant tourist trade. Nearly all communities in North Central Wisconsin are in this category and they should all identify their historic sites. A study of potential areas is encouraged. Assistance and guidance for the study can be obtained from the Wisconsin Council for local History, an organization affiliated with the State Historical Society and the local County Historical Society.

Leases

Leases may be used as measures to use or protect land until more permanent measures may be found. By leasing parcels of land, the land remains on the county's and the community's tax rolls and can be renegotiated or non-renewed by the property owner if the monetary prospects for another use proves overpowering.

Another leasing method involves outright purchase of land by the county. The county then leases the land to a private party or organization with use restrictions placed on the land. Under this method, the county receives some monetary return on its investment and retains control over the use of the land.

Lifetime Activities

Community and school officials responsible for recreation should place greater emphasis on land areas and facilities that can support "lifetime" recreational activities. Falling into this category are activities like golf, tennis, all target sports, horseshoes, cross country skiing, skating, running, volleyball, handball, badminton, back packing, and canoeing. Many schools have programs aimed at teaching recreational activities that people can participate in for a lifetime.

Monetary Aid Programs

Take advantage of state and federal financial and technical aid programs, which are designed, to assist communities in meeting recreational, needs, and maintain community eligibility for such programs.

The Stewardship Fund is a comprehensive aid program for the promotion of resource conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. It consists of several older aid programs such as LAWCON and Local Park Aids, combined with new programs, such as the Urban Rivers Program. Appendix D gives an explanation of the Stewardship Fund. For additional information obtain the most current booklet titled Open Project Selection Process from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Requirements for application to the Stewardship Fund include the requirement that the applicant submits an approved comprehensive recreation plan. This plan is designed to meet that requirement. For the remaining program requirements, or additional information contact:

Community Services Specialist
Rhineland Service Center
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhineland, WI 54501

Besides state and federal aid programs, there are other sources of funding such as private foundations, trust funds, and civic and recreation organizations. For information on private foundations and trusts see Foundations in Wisconsin: A Directory, compiled by Susan A. Hopewood.

Municipal and School District Cooperation

Promote cooperation between municipalities and school districts in meeting recreational needs. With good planning, cooperation may take the form of joint land acquisition and/or facilities development cost sharing. Increased municipal use of existing school facilities during non-school hours should also be encouraged.

Park Dedication

Subdivision regulations can be used by counties to require residential subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use in areas which are experiencing significant residential growth. Neighborhood parks may be acquired in this manner in newly developing residential areas. Local landowners should also be encouraged to dedicate land to their communities for recreational uses. Numerous small town memorial parks have been acquired through the generosity of local citizens. If citizens are made aware of community needs, this form of private action may continue to enrich the public resources of small communities. Forest County will focus efforts to provide connectivity between developments/subdivisions and recreation areas through trail development. The County will support development of other recreation areas within developments/subdivisions where feasible.

Priorities

The need for community officials to establish priorities within their recreation program is emphasized by the scope of the previous recommendations. Although it is unlikely that all of these recommendations will be undertaken within the time period of this plan, there is an outstanding opportunity for inroads to be made. Recognition of increasing demands for recreation, space and facilities should prompt immediate action.

Program Costs

A community should carefully watch operations and maintenance costs when setting up a parks program. A too ambitious acquisition and/or development program can easily lead to annual costs larger than the community can afford to meet. Recreation facilities like golf courses and swimming pools, for example, require large annual maintenance investments to continue.

Senior Citizen Involvement

Involve senior citizens in community park development and beautification and provide recreational facilities for their use. Although senior citizens often compose a significant proportion of the total community's population, they are often neglected in recreational planning. Benches placed near neighborhood parks and play areas and non-intensive sports facilities such as horseshoe pits located in community parks help to provide a place for the senior citizens. Small, passive use parks and garden located near nursing and retirement homes should also be encouraged. In addition, senior citizens can provide invaluable assistance in beautifying parks and open spaces and can thereby become more involved in community group life.

Service Group Involvement

Involve organized service groups in needed park and recreation development, including development of competitive sports area and neighborhood parks. Traditionally, service groups and recreation organizations, such as Lions Club, V.F.W., softball leagues, and snowmobile clubs have played an active role in the development of such facilities. Continued activity of this type should be encouraged. In addition, service groups could help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities by supplementing municipal financial resources and providing organization and volunteer labor.

Shoreland Zoning

Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Program established statewide minimum standards for shoreland development. Counties are required to adopt and administer shoreland zoning ordinances that meet or exceed these minimum requirements. The statewide minimum standards for county shoreland zoning ordinances are found in Chapter NR 115, Wis. Admin. Code. Be sure to check with Oneida County to find out about their development standards.

Snowmobile/ATV Routes

Since snowmobiles and ATVs can be considered a noise nuisance and a hazard for non-users, municipalities may wish to designate specific routes through the municipality for snowmobile/ATV use instead of designating all roads open to snowmobiles and ATVs.

Specialized Facilities

Encourage development of specialized facilities by the private sector. Specialized facilities such as golf clubs, intensive use ATV areas, and ski resorts can be an important adjunct to public recreational facilities. Quality and availability for public use should be emphasized.

Public Access via Subdivision Regulations (Platting Lands)

Lake and stream shore plats can provide public access to the adjacent water bodies. The Wisconsin Statutes 236.16(3) require that all subdivisions abutting a navigable lake or stream provide at least a sixty-foot-wide access to the low watermark from existing public roads at not more than one-half mile intervals (excluding shore areas where public parks or open-space streets are provided).

Use of Easements

Open space and public recreation use of private land may be acquired by easement. With an easement, certain rights are granted to the public for a specific period of time and the private owner is compensated for that public use. In purchasing an easement, the public body acquires a right either to use the land in a specific manner or to restrict the use to which an owner may put their land. For example, the rights to establish public hiking or fishing access to a waterway may be purchased through an easement.

Winter Activities

All communities should provide winter outdoor recreation facilities. Skating and sliding sports (sledding, tobogganing, and skiing) can generally be provided without large investments. Skating, for example, can be as involved as providing rinks for ice hockey or as simple as flooding a small area of a school playground. Likewise, merely blocking off a lightly traveled street with a suitable slope can frequently provide a sliding area.

Chapter 9

PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING

Essential characteristics of any planning process includes an inventory of what exists, determining what has occurred since the last plan was created, and what is desired locally for the future. Periodic updating of the plan is necessary for continued refinement and course correction to keep the plan current.

Some of the planning recommendations will not be accomplished within this five-year plan period, and additional recommendations may be added as new recreational activities are requested or the status of existing facilities changes.

Annual review of the plan recommendations and capital improvement tables by the Oneida County Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Committee will keep this plan current. This review may also occur after a large turn over in elected officials after a local election.

The review process includes surveying the local units of government, the school districts, and outdoor recreation groups about the following information:

1. What improvements are needed to existing facilities?
2. What new nature based facilities are necessary to satisfy demand?
3. Which potential projects fulfill this demand?
4. Who is the project sponsor?

The Oneida County Forestry, Land, & Outdoor Recreation Committee will review information collected from surveys, and evaluate the need for proposed projects based on standards and priorities as outlined in this plan.

Conducting a full plan update every five years is required by the DNR to maintain the county's eligibility for grant programs.

ATTACHMENT A

TOWN and OUTDOOR RECREATION GROUP
OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEYS

THE TABULATED RESULTS FOR SURVEYS EXISTS IN:
CHAPTER 5 – OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

TOWN SURVEY

The following Town survey was mailed in May 2008 to each Oneida County town along with several pages of attachments that stated what facilities they already had, and what they had planned to improve from 2004-2008.

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ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

Oneida County is updating its Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2009-2013, and we would like your input. The new five-year outdoor recreation plan will list completed projects, and identify new projects for development. The plan focuses upon Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (**FLORD**) managed facilities, but will also list projects within the towns and the City of Rhineland to be eligible for competitive federal and state outdoor recreation grant money.

Please make comments on a separate sheet of paper and mail that sheet to be **postmarked by June 20, 2008, to:** Fred Heider, NCWRPC
210 McClellan St STE 210
Wausau WI 54403

1. Please mark which Town projects from the existing outdoor recreation plan on the enclosed sheet have been or will be completed through the end of 2008.
2. Please list future outdoor recreational improvements that your community would like to make from January 2009 to December 2013.
3. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County?
4. How shall the recreational issues described above in Question 3 be satisfied?
5. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing your community?
6. How shall the recreational issues described above in Question 5 be satisfied?
7. What existing outdoor recreation facilities in the county need improvement?
Please describe what is needed, and why.

Thank You For Your Participation!

An **OUTDOOR RECREATION MEETING** for Oneida County **FLORD** managed facilities will be held **from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, 2008, in the County Board Room at the Oneida County Courthouse in Rhineland**. The public is invited to give oral or written comments about the future direction for creating or improving outdoor recreation facilities that are managed by Oneida County **FLORD** over the next 5 years (2009-2013).

Additional comments may be directed to members of the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Committee at any time.

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GROUP SURVEY

The following survey was mailed to each outdoor recreation group initially in June 2008, and any missed groups that came to the attention of NCWRPC in February 2009 were also mailed a survey in February 2009.

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ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

Oneida County is updating its Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2009-2013, and we would like your input. The revised five-year outdoor recreation plan will list completed projects, and identify new projects for development. The plan focuses upon Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (**FLORED**) managed facilities, but will also list projects within the towns and the City of Rhinelander to be eligible for competitive federal and state outdoor recreation grant money.

Please make comments on a separate sheet of paper and mail that sheet to be **postmarked by May 28, 2008**, to:
Fred Heider, NCWRPC
210 McClellan St STE 210
Wausau WI 54403

1. Please list the group represented.
2. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing **Oneida County**?
3. How shall the recreational issues described above in Question 2 be satisfied?
4. What improvements would your group like made at any Oneida County FLORED managed facilities? Please list the park or trail, the general location, and then list the desired improvement.
5. Do you feel that there should be new outdoor recreational facilities developed?
If so, where and what type of facilities, and what facilities would be discontinued to pay for these new facilities?
6. Please list any other suggestions or comments.

Thank You For Your Participation!

An **OUTDOOR RECREATION MEETING** for Oneida County FLORED managed facilities will be held from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, 2008, in the County Board Room at the Oneida County Courthouse in Rhinelander**. The public is invited to give oral or written comments about the future direction for creating or improving outdoor recreation facilities that are managed by Oneida County FLORED over the next 5 years (2009-2013).

Additional comments may be directed to members of the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Committee at any time.

Review parts of the Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2009-2013 at:
<http://www.ncwrpc.org/counties/oneida/orp.html>

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ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

Oneida County is updating its Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2009-2013, and we would like your input. The revised five-year outdoor recreation plan will list completed projects, and identify new projects for development. The plan focuses upon Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department (**FLORD**) managed facilities, but will also list projects within the towns and the City of Rhinelander to be eligible for competitive federal and state outdoor recreation grant money.

Please make comments on a separate sheet of paper and mail that sheet to be **postmarked by March 20, 2009, to:** Fred Heider, NCWRPC
210 McClellan St STE 210
Wausau WI 54403

1. Please list the group represented.
2. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing **Oneida County**?
3. How shall the recreational issues described above in Question 2 be satisfied?
4. What improvements would your group like made at any Oneida County FLORD managed facilities? Please list the park or trail, the general location, and then list the desired improvement.
5. Do you feel that there should be new outdoor recreational facilities developed?
If so, where and what type of facilities, and what facilities would be discontinued to pay for these new facilities?
6. Please list any other suggestions or comments.

Thank You For Your Participation!

All survey replies and public comments submitted electronically or by mail will be provided to the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Committee for their review at their next meeting following March 20, 2009.

Additional comments may be directed to members of the Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Committee at any time.

Review the draft Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2009-2013 at:
<http://www.ncwrpc.org/counties/oneida/orp.html>

Paper copies of the plan are available at the Rhinelander, Minocqua, and Nicolet College libraries for review.

ATTACHMENT B

NCWRPC GENERATED SCORP 2005-2010 SUMMARY

STATE-WIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP) 2005-2010

This SCORP 2005-2010 summary was created by NCWRPC staff. Parts that relate specifically to Oneida County are noted throughout this summary. Generally, this summary was created as if it were written directly for Oneida County and the Northwoods Region in reference to the statewide data. See the SCORP Planning Regions Map.

The 2005–2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Since passage of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965, preparation of a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) has been required for states to be eligible for LWCF acquisition and development assistance. The LWCF is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and provides grants for outdoor recreation projects by both state and local governments.

The Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan is required to apply for Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding and to apply for Wisconsin Stewardship Grant funding.



The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2005-2010 was developed by the WDNR to assist local units of government with recreation planning. This SCORP examines various trends to assess current and future recreational needs within the state. To aid in this process, Wisconsin was divided into a group of eight planning regions each representing a loose collection of natural resource and tourism based assets. With SCORP's comprehensive statewide and regional focus, it will guide the allocation of limited recreation funds to acquire additional recreation and conservation lands and support the continued development of outdoor recreation opportunities.

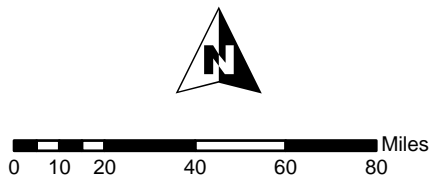
Primary resources in the Northwoods Region are nature, snow, and ice based. The SCORP Planning Regions Map shows that Oneida County is in the Northwoods Region.

SCORP consists of 7 chapters and five appendixes that are summarized below.

SCORP Planning Regions



-  Non-Metro Recreation Counties
-  SCORP Planning Boundaries



This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only. NCWRPC is not responsible for any inaccuracies herein contained.



**North Central
Wisconsin Regional
Planning Commission**

210 McClellan St., Suite 210, Wausau, WI 54403
715-849-5510 - staff@ncwrpc.org - www.ncwrpc.org

Chapter 1 – Wisconsin Natural Amenities, Population Changes, and Recreation Destinations.

Chapter 1 explores what natural amenities exist in the Northwoods area, and examines the recreation and population changes that have occurred within Wisconsin over the past 50 years. This chapter investigates the ways in which changing demographic trends have impacted recreation supply and demand in Wisconsin.

Oneida County demographic data exists in Chapter 2 of the Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2009-2013.

General SCORP conclusions for Chapter 1 include:

- Heavily forested (Oneida County) or grassland regions, for example, support activities such as hiking, trail-riding, and cross-country skiing, while regions with many lakes and rivers support speed boating, water skiing, canoeing, swimming, etc.
- Southern Gateways and Lake Winnebago Waters areas are expected to have higher population growth than more rural regions. Larger populations generally support a larger supply of recreational opportunities, more people participating in a more diverse range of activities. For this reason, a larger population will also require a larger pool of potential recreational activities and facilities.
- Age – Older residents (Oneida County) generally enjoy quieter, lower impact activities such as viewing birds, driving for pleasure, ice fishing, etc. While younger generations will generally participate in more high impact activities such as running, jogging, inline skating, developed camping, disk golf, downhill skiing, kayaking, paintball, mountain biking, and riding ATVs.
- Income – Middle income Wisconsinites (Oneida County) often participate in developed camping, snowmobiling, fishing, picnicking, driving for pleasure, and ATV riding.
- Seasonal housing development in the Northwoods (Oneida County) and Great Northwest Regions, was highest during the 1970s and has since leveled off. **(NCWRPC note: Between 1990 and 2000, Oneida County in Table 1, page 11, has witnessed a direct correlation between reduced seasonal population and increased permanent population. Seasonal residents are becoming permanent residents. Oneida County had about 40% seasonal residents in 2000.)**
- The SCORP Planning Regions Map shows that all counties north of and including Oneida are considered "Non-Metro Recreation Counties" according to a recent research study (Johnson and Beale, 2002). Non-Metro Recreation Counties are generally considered to be vacation destinations and are therefore important to the overall state economy. Yet these counties have value beyond what they provide in tourist dollars. As natural amenity rich areas they provide large areas of land for outdoor recreating, land that is important to an ever developing statewide landscape. High net migration rates and higher population growth rates occurred in these counties.

Chapter 2 – Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Demand and Uses.

Chapter 2 explores user demand for almost 100 popular Wisconsin outdoor recreational activities, and examines which activities are most popular and which environments are the most desirable for outdoor recreation. This plan is the first SCORP to evaluate recreation demand from outside of the state, an evaluation that will prove useful in balancing the demands of in-state and out-of-state residents. In addition, this chapter explores several barriers that prevent people from participating in recreational activities as often as they would like. Finally, this chapter discusses the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the continuing challenge of addressing outdoor recreation conflicts for individuals with mobility disabilities.

This chapter explores several of the factors that influence a person's recreation preferences – recreation settings, recreation experiences, and geographic location – and classifies recreational activities and users according to these groupings. While important, recreation preferences are only one component of recreation participation. Barriers to recreation are another important consideration in determining how often and to what extent people recreate – personal, environmental, and disabled barriers.

Recreation participation rates within Wisconsin are higher than most other regions of the country. This may be attributed to the combination of Wisconsin's abundant recreation resources and the state's four season climate.

Wisconsin Demand Use Highlights describes several activities and projects what their future potential is.

These two following sheets were taken directly from SCORP.

The 2005 – 2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Wisconsin Demand Use Highlights

ATVing

Within Wisconsin, ATVing has been one of the fastest growing recreation activities. What started in the 1970s as a small sport has now grown into a multimillion dollar industry with devoted participants across the country. With its abundance of undeveloped land, Wisconsin has proved an ideal location for ATVing; over 23% of Wisconsinites currently participate in ATV recreation and more are riding every year. For many ATV enthusiasts their sport is a social activity—they ride with their friends and families, stopping to shop and eat at different towns along the way. A number of ATV clubs and their members are active in group outings, performing trail maintenance, and promoting vehicle safety and advocacy. For other riders, ATVing is a nature-based activity. These users value the time they spend outside while on their ATVs, the fresh air and peaceful atmosphere they experience riding on a rural trail.



Though increasingly popular, the rise in ATV usage has not been without growing pains. Those objecting to ATVs have continually raised complaints about the noise and displacement of other recreational uses caused by the vehicles. Though the motorsports industry and a number of ATV clubs have addressed these issues with some limited successes in the state, there is still much work to be done to ensure ATVs interact peacefully with other motorized and non-motorized recreational activities.

Geocaching

Most Wisconsinites have probably never heard of geocaching. For those that participate in the sport, though, it represents a new and exciting form of ultra-modern, technologically advanced recreation. Geocaching may be described as a modern day treasure hunt. The sport relies on Global



Positioning System (GPS) units, small devices that are able to determine, within 6-20 feet, the location of any spot on the planet. With these devices in hand, geocachers set out to find caches—small treasures set up and maintained by a worldwide network of individuals and organizations. The location of a cache is

posted on the internet so geocachers need only record the location (in latitude and longitude) of their treasure and set out to find it. Though the sport sounds simple, it often involves a good deal of trekking and searching as geocachers make their way over hills and rocks, forests and streams to find their treasure. The location of a cache is up to the individual who establishes it, thus they are often placed somewhere the hider deems special—a scenic vista, a rocky cliff-face, even the

bottom of a shallow lake. Upon arriving at a cache—generally a small bag containing trinkets and a logbook—the visitor takes a treasure, leaves a treasure, and records his visit in the book. He then replaces the cache and returns home, ready to start his next quest. Geocaching has become popular not only for its sense of adventure, but also its flexibility. Caches can be hidden anywhere—city streets, remote wilderness areas, suburban front yards. The rules, like the treasures in the caches themselves, are loose and adaptable, allowing geocachers to create traveling caches, group treasure hunts, and many other variations. As the sport gains more exposure from associations like the Wisconsin Geocaching Association (<http://www.wi-geocaching.com/>), it is expected to continue to increase in popularity.

Walking for Pleasure

Of all recreational activities offered in Wisconsin, walking for pleasure is by far the most popular, with over 85% of state residents (3.5 million people) participating. The reasons are obvious; walking is an easy, accessible activity requiring only your own two feet and a



good pair of shoes (sometimes those are even negotiable!). Walking can be done nearly anywhere, whether in the heart of downtown Milwaukee or in the most remote portion of northern Wisconsin. Walking is also a multitasker's dream, allowing us to sightsee, chat with friends, or simply enjoy the scenery as we stroll. As exercise becomes an increasing

concern for the Wisconsin population, walking can provide a good source of activity during a hectic workday just as easily as during a leisurely weekend outing.

Motorboating

In a state that is nearly surrounded by water—Lake Superior to the north, Lake Michigan to the east, the Mississippi River to the west, and thousands of smaller lakes and rivers in between—it is not surprising that watersports are popular among Wisconsinites. With 1,513,000 people (36% of the population) participating, motorboating is a favorite pastime of many state residents, and with good reason: Every one of our 72 counties has at least 4 lakes with the most—1,327 lakes—occurring in Vilas County. Our boat-to-resident ratio is the second in the nation with one boat for every nine residents (Minnesota is number one, with one boat for every six residents). Our state ranks



6th in the nation for boat registrations and 7th in the nation for money spent on boating. The many varieties of lakes within Wisconsin accommodate nearly every form of motorboat, from small runabouts to large

Wisconsin Demand Use Highlights

Great Lake vessels. Because of its tremendous popularity, motorboating has sometimes been associated with issues of overcrowding and safety. In reaction to these concerns, certain lakes have placed restrictions on the sport. As the powerboat industry continues to push for more affordable boating, the sport is expected to become increasingly popular, cementing its status as a favorite outdoor pursuit.

Outdoor Ice Skating

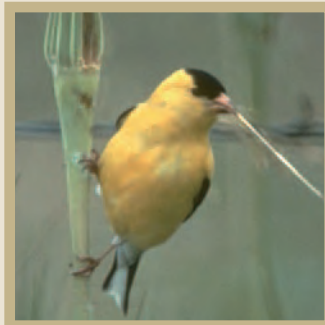
Although cold and sometimes dreary, Wisconsin's winter does provide state residents with a wide variety of winter recreation. With 16.6% of state residents participating, outdoor ice skating is an especially popular winter activity. Skating is available in nearly all parts of



the state, whether in the highly developed outdoor rinks of urban areas or the crystalline surfaces of frozen northern lakes. While ice skating appeals to all ages, the physical demands involved in the sport tend to attract a younger crowd. Among this demographic skating is done recreationally and competitively, ice skating being a popular activity, especially among girls. The cost of participation for ice skating is generally low, a quality that has made the activity popular among families looking for an economical form of recreation. In recent years there has been a push to develop more outdoor ice skating rinks at the local level, a move that would make the activity accessible and popular to an even wider range of state residents.

Viewing/Photographing Birds

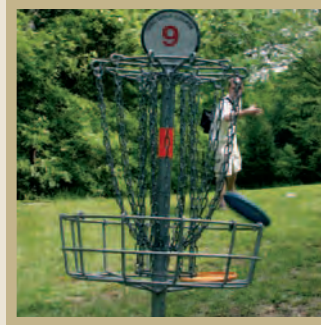
Viewing/photographing birds is an activity popular across all age groups and state regions—over 40% of Wisconsinites (1,700,000 people) participate in the activity. Unlike other forms of more active recreation, birdwatching is a uniquely serene pursuit—quiet, non-destructive, and based in a natural setting. Many birdwatchers value this natural aspect, enjoying the opportunity to be in the fields or woods, away from the noise and sometimes hectic pace of the city. Interestingly, most birdwatchers don't need to go far from home to find this peaceful atmosphere—85% birdwatch within 1 mile of where they live. Other birdwatchers value the educational aspect of the activity, taking the time to search for new species and learn the different behaviors, calls, and appearances of different birds. Birdwatching is often done as a family activity, making the sport a uniquely social way to spend time in nature. As the activity has become more popular, the state has begun to develop birdwatching trails. These trails often feature driving routes with stopping points to observe birds and other wildlife. These new trails are expected to further increase the popularity of birdwatching.



Birdwatching is often done as a family activity, making the sport a uniquely social way to spend time in nature. As the activity has become more popular, the state has begun to develop birdwatching trails. These trails often feature driving routes with stopping points to observe birds and other wildlife. These new trails are expected to further increase the popularity of birdwatching.

Disc Golf

Begun as a sport in the 1970s, disc golf has exploded in popularity. What started with a single course in Pasadena, California in 1975 has now expanded to a global phenomenon with courses on all continents but Africa, passionate players across the globe, and a professional sporting association, the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA). The rules of disc golf are much like traditional golf: get the disc to the target—an above ground, metal, net-like structure—in as few throws



as possible. The course is also very similar, with a fairway, terrain changes, and obstacles (trees, shrubs, water traps) all dotting the landscape of the typically 9 or 18 hole course. 8.8% of Wisconsinites (366,000 people) now participate in disc golf, with more joining these ranks every year. The sport is popular for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is

the ease in which it is played. A beginner at the sport needs only 3 discs (a driver, a mid-range, and a putter) and access to a course. Courses are found in most cities and entrance fees are generally low-cost or free. The sport itself is very friendly towards beginners as all players move from hole to hole at their own pace. Many participants play in groups and the sport provides a moderate amount of exercise and an opportunity to be outside.

Attending an Outdoor Sporting Event

You need not look further than your nearest cheesehead-stocked general store to know that sports are big in Wisconsin. Although only 20% of Wisconsinites participate in sports themselves, nearly 57% (2,365,000 people) watch or attend outdoor sporting events. Large events such as University of Wisconsin–Madison football games have ranked among the nation's top 20 in game attendance for each of the team's last nine seasons. Other events—football, soccer, and baseball games—are also popular year-round activities. Because they generally require developed facilities and large crowds, sporting events usually take place in larger cities, making them one of the few forms of recreation best suited for urban environments. While some skeptics may frown at the idea of classifying sporting event attendance as outdoor recreation, there are many side benefits from this activity. Those attending these events walk to the stadium and often tailgate—an outdoor activity and a chance to socialize with family, friends, and neighbors.



Outdoor Resource Type

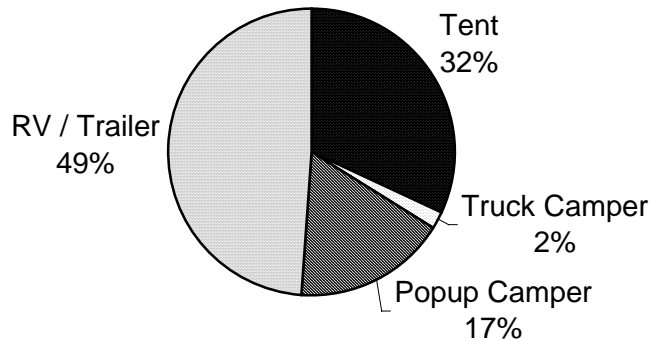
Oneida County is part of the Northwoods Region, which supports outdoor recreation uses by the natural resource settings that are: Nature Based, and Snow & Ice Based.

Nature based land activities are those outdoor recreation activities that occur in undeveloped settings. While limited developed facilities may be used in conjunction with these activities, the typical nature based land activity participant wants to experience natural surroundings. Visiting wilderness areas is the most popular nature based land activity in Wisconsin with 38.3% of Wisconsinites participating. Hiking and camping are also popular with approximately 1/3 of state residents participating in each. Table B-1 shows the percent of state residents participating in Wisconsin nature based land activities from age 16 on up.

| Activity | Percent Participating | Number of Participants (1,000s) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Visit a wilderness or primitive area | 38.3 | 1,592 |
| Day hiking | 35.0 | 1,455 |
| Camping – developed | 32.3 | 1,343 |
| Visit a farm or agricultural setting | 31.8 | 1,322 |
| Off-road driving with an ATV | 23.4 | 973 |
| Mountain biking (off-road) | 20.4 | 848 |
| Hunting – big game | 19.2 | 798 |
| Trail running | 18.6 | 773 |
| Mountain biking (single track) | 18.0 | 748 |
| Off-road 4-wheel driving | 17.7 | 736 |
| Camping – primitive | 16.0 | 665 |
| Hunting – small game | 14.5 | 603 |
| Hunting – upland birds | 10.5 | 436 |
| Horseback riding on trails | 8.1 | 337 |
| Backpacking | 6.9 | 287 |
| Rock climbing | 5.9 | 245 |
| Off-road motorcycling | 5.9 | 245 |
| Hunting – migratory bird | 5.0 | 208 |
| Mountain climbing | 3.4 | 141 |
| Orienteering | 2.7 | 112 |
| Geocaching | 2.0 | 83 |

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Wisconsin Camper Type



Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Snow and Ice based activities are those that involve some form of frozen water. These activities are very popular among Wisconsinites with just over 44% of state residents participating. Sledding is the most popular of these activities, with just over a quarter (29.3%) of the state participating. Ice related activities are also very popular in the state, with almost 700,000 Wisconsinites participating in ice skating and nearly 500,000 participating in ice fishing. Table B-2 shows the percent of state residents participating in Wisconsin snow and ice based activities from age 16 on up.

Table B-2 State Resident Participation in Snow and Ice Based Activities

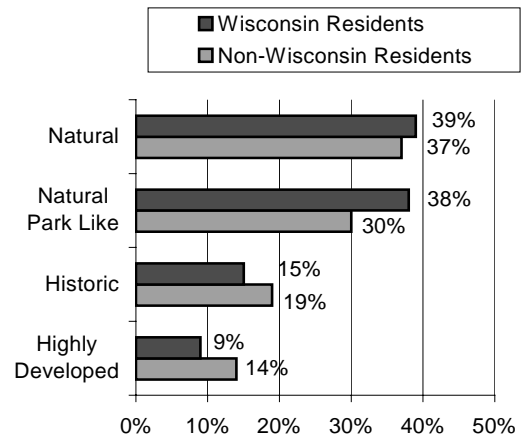
| Activity | Percent Participating | Number of Participants (1,000s) |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sledding | 29.3 | 1,218 |
| Snowmobiling | 18.3 | 761 |
| Ice skating outdoors | 16.6 | 690 |
| Skiing – cross-country | 11.4 | 474 |
| Fishing – ice | 11.4 | 474 |
| Skiing – downhill | 9.7 | 403 |
| Snowshoeing | 8.0 | 333 |
| Snowboarding | 4.7 | 195 |
| Ice hockey outdoors | 4.0 | 166 |
| Skiing – telemark | 2.4 | 99 |
| Dog sledding | 1.1 | 46 |

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Figure 1: Outdoor Recreation Setting Preferences

Preferences in Outdoor Recreation Settings

Understanding both setting and activity preferences can help recreation managers and planners provide for a wide range of recreational opportunities within a given setting. Wisconsin and non-Wisconsin residents were asked which of 4 distinct environments they preferred as a recreational setting. Figure 1 shows that natural settings and natural park like settings came out on top.



Outdoor Recreation Segmentation by Experiences

Another way of understanding recreation activity preferences – the type of experience a person seeks from participating in a given recreational activity. The WDNR and the 1999-2004 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) examined people's preferences and participation in a range of outdoor recreational activities. From this data, several outdoor recreation participation segments were identified:

1. Inactives; 2. Passives; 3. Non-Consumptive Moderate; 4. Nature Lovers; 5. Active Nature Watchers; 6. Water Bugs; 7. Motorized Consumptives (Hunt and Fish); and 8. Enthusiasts.

Inactives comprise about 17% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This is the largest and also the most sedentary group of all market segments. Members may participate in some hunting and fishing, but do not participate in any water sports.

Primary Activities:

- Walk for pleasure.
- Attend family gathering.

Passives comprise about 14.5% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. Unlike most other segments, Passives do not often participate in viewing and photographing activities.

Primary Activities:

- Attend family gathering.
- Visit a nature center
- picnicking
- visit a historic center
- visit a beach

Non Consumptive Moderates comprise about 14% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This group represents the average person that is somewhat more involved in recreation. Some members of this group participate in physically demanding activities such as mountain biking and snorkeling. Activities not favored by this group include hunting, fishing, and off-road driving.

Primary Activities:

- Visit a beach
- Swimming
- Downhill skiing
- Visit a nature center
- Mountain biking
- Picnicking
- Day hiking
- Camping

Nature Lovers comprise about 16.2% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This group enjoys viewing and photographing nature and are almost twice as likely as the average person to participate in these activities. They generally drive for pleasure rather than hike or backpack into a natural setting. Nature Lovers participate in limited amounts of hunting, fishing, active sports, and muscle powered activities, but these activities are not their passion.

Primary Activities:

- Viewing/Photographing nature
- Drive for pleasure
- Learning/Viewing a nature center
- Walk for pleasure
- Sightseeing
- Attend a family gathering

Active Nature Watchers comprise about 16.5% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This group is active when viewing nature as opposed to Nature Lovers. This group hikes or backpacks into natural settings to view wildlife or natural scenery. Members of this group also enjoy water based activities, but prefer to arrive at their viewing destination by human power.

Primary Activities:

- Viewing/Photographing nature
- Learning/Viewing a nature center
- Walking
- Day hiking
- Cross-country skiing
- Swimming
- Kayaking
- Visit a historic site

Water Bug comprise about 8.2% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This group is almost as energetic as the Enthusiasts group. Members of this group participate in water based activities twice as often as the average person.

Primary Activities:

- Visit a beach
- Visit a water park
- Swimming
- Boating (all types)
- Drive for pleasure
- Picnicking
- Learning/Visiting a nature center
- Downhill skiing

Motorized Consumptives (Hunt and Fish) comprise about 7.8% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This group has the highest participation rates for hunting and fishing with members; four times more likely to hunt, and three times more likely to fish than the average person. Rates of physically demanding activities are relatively low among members of this group, with members preferring consumptive activities (hunting and fishing) and motorized activities to human powered activities.

Primary Activities:

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Motorboating
- Snowmobiling
- Driving off-road
- Horseback riding
- Camping
- Gathering mushrooms, berries, etc.

Enthusiasts comprise about 8.2% of Wisconsinites 16 years and older. This group is the most active of all residents, and they enjoy the broadest array of activities. Members of this group are two to six times more likely to participate in certain activities than most other Americans. Enthusiasts also enjoy activities that are physically challenging and require high levels of skill and endurance.

Primary Activities:

- Cross-country skiing
- Kayaking
- Snowboarding
- Mountain biking
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Sailing
- Rowing

Recreation Demand from Outside Wisconsin

Generally, Oneida County has visitors who mainly come from the Chicago, Illinois Direct Marketing Area besides residents from other counties in Wisconsin.

Status of Health and Barriers to Recreation in Wisconsin

No matter what recreation experience, setting, or activity people prefer, one thing is clear: physical activity is important to overall health and well-being. Over the course of the past few decades, national overweight and obesity rates have increased dramatically. Today more than 60% of adults over the age of 20 are overweight or at risk of becoming so. In Wisconsin, 61% of adults are overweight or obese, while 24% of Wisconsin high school students are overweight or at risk of becoming so.

In order to encourage increased physical activity among Wisconsinites we must first understand the barriers to becoming active. As part of SCORP 2005-2010 residents were surveyed, and responses were grouped into two categories – personal, and environmental barriers.

Personal barriers to increasing physical activity in order of importance are:

1. Lack of time, 2. Family commitments, 3. Job/work, 4. Crowding, 5. Conflicts with motorized uses, 6. Cost, 7. Age, and 8. Fuel prices.

Environmental barriers to increasing physical activity in order of importance are:

1. Distance/travel time, 2. Lack of access to public lands, 3. Lack of information about where to go, 4. Not enough campsites/electric sites, 5. Noise from ATVs and other motorized uses, 6. Lack of bike trails, 7. Lack of public transportation, and 8. Lack of snow.

Accessibility Recreation Considerations

This SCORP intends to assess and improve recreation for all recreational participants. One often overlooked group in recreational planning has been those with mobility disabilities. Although accessibility to recreational resources has increased for disabled persons there has been little

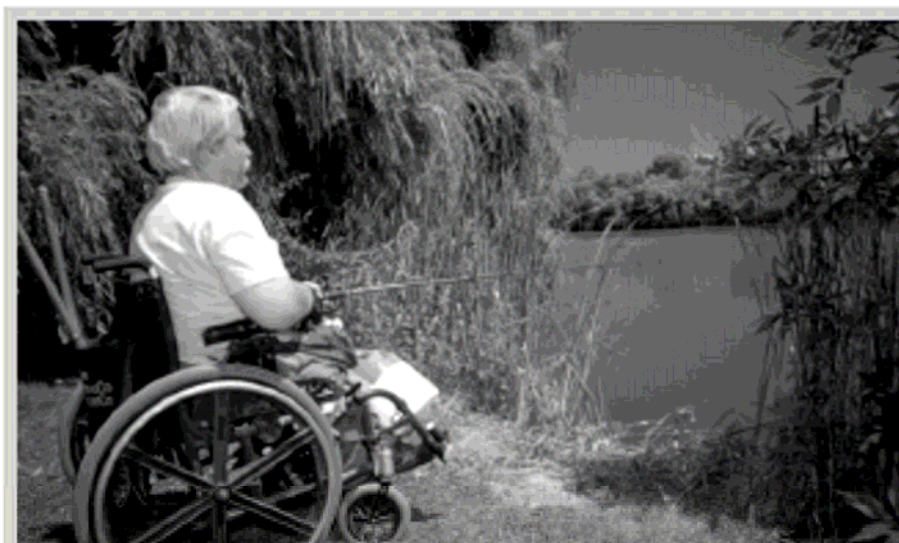
research exploring the outdoor recreation participation patterns of people with disabilities. To establish a general understanding of the supply and demand of recreation for disabled persons, the WDNR evaluated several studies conducted by the 1999-2004 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE).

In the NRSE data, the characteristics of activities that influenced recreation participation rates of disabled people included: (a) the physical nature of activities, (b) the degree of adaptation needed for participation, (c) the social expectations, self perceptions, and social fears associated with certain activities, (d) the financial costs of activities, and (e) the accessibility of sites where activities took place. From this work, 15 recreation uses listed alphabetically below were determined to have average or above average participation rates among mobility disabled individuals. Most of these activities are nature based requiring a more natural/undeveloped setting. Viewing and learning activities are also popular with this population.

- Attend concerts
- Backpacking
- Birdwatching
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Drive off-road
- Fishing
- Horseback riding
- Nature study
- Sightseeing
- Sledding
- View fish
- Visiting historic/archeology sites
- Visit nature centers
- Wildlife viewing

As reported in the 2000 U.S. Census, Wisconsin has about 791,000 disabled persons, which is about 14% of the state population. Among residents 65 and older, 36.5% are classified as disabled. As Wisconsin's large baby boomer population continues to age, the demand for disabled recreation facilities is also expected to increase.

Generally, this groups barriers to increased participation in outdoor recreation include: 1. No companions, 2. Not enough money, 3. Not enough time, 4. Outdoor pests, and 5. Personal health.



The demand for disabled recreation facilities is expected to increase with Wisconsin's aging population.

Chapter 3 – The Supply of Outdoor Recreation in Wisconsin.

Chapter 3 explores the supply of recreation in Wisconsin, both in terms of built facilities and outdoor recreation environments. Since outdoor supply comes in many forms, this chapter examines both landscape scale needs, and local park and recreation needs.

Oneida County's existing recreation facilities are listed in Chapter 3 of the Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Public and Private Recreation Providers

The major recreation providers in Oneida County are the Forestry, Land, and Outdoor Recreation Department of Oneida County, and collectively all the private resorts. County forest lands are far greater than state lands or local government lands in the county.

The Wisconsin Managed Forest Law (MFL) provides ideal settings for outdoor recreation uses. Much of privately held land available for limited public use in Oneida County is enrolled in MFL. As of February 2008, there are 152,910 acres of open access MFL land, and 13,776 acres of Forest Crop Law (FCL) land in Oneida County.

Some private recreation providers offer campgrounds, resorts, or golf courses to the public, and charge a fee for their use. Private recreation lands that charge a fee are not enrolled in MFL.

Elements of Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Supply

Oneida County's existing recreation facilities are listed in Chapter 3 of the Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Recreation Prioritization of Land Legacy Areas

Wisconsin Land Legacy Areas in Oneida County are identified in Chapter 1 of the Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan under Past Plans, and are also generally shown on Map 2.

As Wisconsin works to develop and expand recreation, it is important that the state develop a system for evaluating potential sites with an eye towards their recreational value. Initial work done by the Wisconsin Land Legacy Plan has identified an inventory of places believed to be critical in meeting Wisconsin's conservation and recreation needs over the next 50 years.

1. Potential Visitors

Future recreational areas should be easily accessible to a large number of potential visitors. To determine the number of visitors an area may receive, sites were assessed for the number of people living within an hour's drive of their respective boundaries. Road data was used to create buffer areas which were then placed on a map and compared to the buffer areas of surrounding sites. Areas with the highest amounts of potential visitors were assigned a higher score than those with lower amounts. While these areas certainly receive visitors outside of a one-hour drive, additional work evaluating travel patterns will need to be completed before including this data in Land Legacy designations.

2. Population/Development Pressure

In addition to providing sites that are easily and widely accessible, the WDNR also hopes to preserve Wisconsin's unique and special environments. Sites with especially high development pressures may, therefore, deserve priority in the designation of future protected areas. To determine population and development pressure, projected population growth estimates were assessed for each site. Areas expected to undergo the highest population growth were assigned higher scores than those in which population growth was expected to be minimal.

3. Cost of Land Acquisition

Cost of land acquisition is also an important consideration when evaluating potential Land Legacy sites. Areas in which undeveloped land (land which has not been developed for either urban or agricultural use) is relatively inexpensive were assigned a higher score than those in which land was relatively more expensive.

4. Conservation Significance Value

Though the primary goal of the SCORP is improving and expanding recreation within state-owned lands, the WDNR also hopes to preserve places of special ecological importance. For this reason, sites with significant ecological conservation value were assigned higher scores than those with a lower conservation value.

5. Recreational Potential

Finally, any future site must also facilitate participation in its region's top recreational activities. The top 15 recreational uses in each SCORP region were used as a template against which potential sites were evaluated. Sites that offered the most opportunities for popular recreational opportunities received a higher score than those areas that provided fewer opportunities for these activities.

Data from all five components was then compiled on a site-by-site basis. Sites receiving the highest scores within each region were designated as high recreational potential Land Legacy sites.

Look in the SCORP Chapter 5 summary under **Regional Land Legacy Areas for High Recreation Demand** to view the highest priority Legacy Areas in the Northwoods SCORP Region.

Local Park and Recreation Needs

As another aspect of this planning process, local recreational needs (county, city, village, and town) were also assessed. This process involved a review of 373 local park and recreation plans on file as part of the WDNR recreational grants program.

The top five planning recommendations of each municipality were summarized. These recommendations were then compiled into a larger list, and categorized into three areas – 1. Park and Open Space Acquisition Needs, 2. General Recreation Improvements, 3. New Recreation Developments – and are listed in Table B-3

Table B-3 Summary of Local Outdoor Recreation Plan Recommendations

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Park and Open Space Acquisition Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community parks • Dog parks • Ice Age Trail • Mini parks • Neighborhood parks <p>General Recreation Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA accessible facilities • Athletic field upgrades and improvements • Better signage • Playground equipment upgrades • Restroom upgrades | <p>New Recreation Developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike trails • Boat launches • Camping • Disc golf courses • Ice skating rinks • Indoor recreation complexes • Nature trails • Park shelters • Picnic areas • Scenic drives • Skateboard parks • Sledding hills • Soccer fields • Swimming pools • Tennis court development • Trail connections • Volleyball courts • Water access • Water trails • Water spray parks |
|---|--|

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Warren Knowles – Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Fund

The Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program (Stewardship 2000) is the state’s primary funding source for the state, local governments (including tribes), and non-profit conservation organizations (NCOs) to acquire land and easements for conservation and outdoor recreation purposes. This program is funded by general obligation bonds.

Stewardship 2000 is administered by the WDNR and provides \$60 million annually through FY 2010. As shown in Table B-4, the program acts as an umbrella organization for several subprograms, each with its own goals and priorities. These subprograms provide funds to improve visitor amenities at state and local parks; restore wetlands and prairies; and acquire land for trails, natural areas, state and county forests, wildlife habitat, urban green space, state and local parks, river and stream corridors, and flowages and wild lakes.

Stewardship 2000 has four major components:

1. *Land Acquisition by WDNR and NCOs:* Acquisition of land and easements for a wide range of conservation and outdoor recreation purposes.

Qualified NCOs are also eligible to acquire lands and conservation easements with Land Acquisition funds for such purposes as the protection of natural areas, habitat areas, streambank protection, and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

2. *Local Assistance*: Grants to local governments and NCOs for acquisition of land, conservation easements, and development projects that support nature-based outdoor recreation.

3. *Baraboo Hills*: Land and easement acquisition for the conservation of the hardwood forests of the Baraboo area by the WDNR, local governments and NCOs.

4. *Property Development on State Lands by WDNR, Friends groups, and NCOs*: Development of recreational facilities on state properties includes such projects as campground renovations, construction of park support and interpretive facilities, and improved accessibility to recreation areas.

As the state budget fluctuates and funding for programs statewide becomes increasingly scarce, proposals have been made to severely cut or reduce the scope of Stewardship 2000 funding. Public response to these proposals has been overwhelmingly supportive of the existing Stewardship Program. Editorials in support of the program appeared in more than 25 newspapers statewide, indicating that Wisconsinites recognize and support the key role this program has played and will continue to play in the long-term protection of Wisconsin's special places.

| Program Category | Subprogram | Annual Funds (\$) | % of Fund |
|---|---|-------------------|-----------|
| Land Acquisition | WDNR Conservation and Recreation Land and Trails | \$37,000,000 | 62% |
| | Nonprofit Conservation Organization (NCO) Conservation and Recreation Land and Trails | \$8,000,000 | 13% |
| Bluff Protection | WDNR and NCO land acquisition in the Great Lakes; \$1 million earmarked through FY 2004 | | |
| Baraboo Hills | WDNR, NCOs, local governments; \$5 million | | |
| Property Development and Local Assistance | Earmarked over previous years | \$6,750,000 | 12% |
| | NCO State Property Development Grants (e.g. Friends of Wisconsin State Parks) | \$250,000 | <1% |
| | Local Assistance Grants: for acquisition and development; local governments and NCOs | \$8,000,000 | 13% |
| Total | | \$60,000,000 | |

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Summary

The need for an increased supply of recreation land and facilities is evident on a variety of levels. On a landscape scale, there are a number of important areas within the state that deserve increased attention for environmental protection and preservation. At the local level, municipal and county parks are in need of facility upgrades and continued management.

Chapter 4 – The Supply of Outdoor Recreation in Wisconsin.

Chapter 4 investigates the current status of Wisconsin's outdoor recreation conflicts, and states the difficulties in developing permanent solutions to these issues. This chapter also explores several of the current innovative solutions for resolving recreation conflicts.

Outdoor Recreation Conflict Reporting in Wisconsin and Surrounding States

In order to establish a general understanding of which Wisconsin recreational activities experience conflict, researchers performed a LexisNexis search for Wisconsin popular press articles from the past two years (December 2003 – December 2005) that discussed issues of recreation conflict. A total of 75 different news stories were found. The most frequently cited conflicts included concerns over environmental damage (19 citations), trails (18 citations), conflict with landowners (15 citations), the implementation of activity bans (14 citations), management actions by state or local agencies (12 citations) and disputes over the use of local parks (11 citations). Other issues included, in order of frequency: safety, conflict with wildlife, noise, budget allocation or fee disputes, local ordinances, access to recreational lands and facilities, loss of viewscapes, park creation, water levels, and passage of state bills.

LexisNexis is a database of The Associated Press State & Local Wire, The Capitol Times, The Daily Reporter, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, The Wisconsin Law Journal, and The Wisconsin State Journal. Sources from surrounding states are also included.

The activities most frequently cited as involved in some form of conflict were hunting (31 citations), ATVs (14 citations) and recreational fishing (8 citations). Other activities found to be associated with some form of conflict included, in order of frequency: bicycling, snowmobiling, hiking, boating, cross-country skiing, camping, swimming, boating, kayaking, swimming, wildlife watching, water skiing and horseback riding.

Articles gathered through this search revealed that conflict associated with non-motorized activities is generally associated with trail use. Articles also indicated that conflicts involving hunting are unique in that they rarely involve conflicts with other outdoor recreation activities. Rather, conflicts related to hunting are most often due to conflicts with private landowners over issues of access or trespassing, or conflicts with the state or recreation area over state management actions or use of parks by hunters.

An additional LexisNexis search was completed for articles from the surrounding states of Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota. Results of this search revealed far fewer articles relating to recreation conflict than the search performed in Wisconsin. For the activities of ATV riding, hunting, and fishing, there were 50 articles found in Wisconsin alone and only 38 articles in all other three states combined. These findings beg the question: What causal effects are contributing to more recreation conflicts in Wisconsin than elsewhere in the upper Midwest?

Past research in the field of recreational compatibility has focused on two principle explanations for why recreation conflict occurs. The first of these explanations suggests that conflict occurs when the goals of one recreation participant interfere with the goals of another recreation participant in the same location. For example, the goal of a mountain biker to ride fast through a forest may

conflict with a horseback rider’s goal of a tranquil ride through the same forest. The actual amount of conflict that occurs when the horseback rider and mountain biker actually encounter one another is dependent on a host of factors including each user’s experience level, previous experience with similar situations, feeling of attachment to the trail they are riding, design of the trail, proximity to one another, duration of their meeting, and tolerance of the other person’s behavior. The second explanation for recreation conflict suggests that conflict may occur simply because of differences in social values. A classic example of this type of clash is the conflict that may occur between hunters and other recreation participants when there are differences in opinion about when and where hunting should occur, or differences in the values held towards live animals. This type of value based conflict is more likely to be an issue during planning processes and public meetings than in recreation settings themselves.

Previous research has also documented a number of important generalizations about recreation conflict. First, recreation conflict is often asymmetrical, meaning that one user group is generally more impacted by the conflict than another. For example, cross-country skiers may be very bothered by snowmobile users, but snowmobile users are not generally bothered by the presence of cross-country skiers. Second, asymmetrical conflict is most likely to occur between motorized and non-motorized recreation activities than between either two motorized or two non-motorized activities. Third, because recreation users employ a variety of coping methods when encountering recreation conflict, increased levels of conflict may not necessarily reduce a person’s satisfaction with their experience. An angler encountering more boaters on a lake than he had expected may, for example, move to another lake or revise his expectations for the trip. In this way, the angler still enjoys his fishing expedition regardless of the fact that it did not meet his initial expectations.

Spectrum of Interaction Types

Recreation activities interact in a variety of ways. Some activities positively impact one another and are called complementary. Camping facilities, for example, often attract many visitors, thereby increasing the number of people who hike on an adjacent trail network. Other recreation activities are merely compatible, having a neutral impact on the pursuit of another recreation activity. These activities are called supplementary. Most activities, however, experience some form of conflict when encountering other activities. Users from these different groups may experience conflicts over competition for space, trail infrastructure, viewscapes, and soundscapes. In extreme cases, two activities may be completely incompatible and interactions between them are described as antagonistic. Table B-5 outlines the spectrum of recreation interactions.

| Interaction Type | Key Characteristic | Outcome | Example |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Complementary | Increasing compatibility with increased use | No conflict | Canoeing and fishing |
| Supplementary | Neutral interaction – no impact on compatibility | Minor conflict | Snowmobiling and ATV use |
| Competitive | Decreasing compatibility with increased use | Conflict | Fishing and personal water craft |
| Antagonistic | Activities completely incompatible | Strong conflict | Wilderness camping and ATV use |

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Expert Based Focus Groups

To investigate the compatibility of recreation activities in Wisconsin, a series of expert-based focus groups were held with recreation managers, members of the Wisconsin SCORP External Review Panel, and the leadership team from the “Minimizing Recreational Use Conflicts in Wisconsin’s Forests” session of the Governor’s Conference on Forestry.

Using a ten-point scale developed specifically for this study participants were asked to complete a matrix comparing recreation activities to other recreation activities. Given an interaction between two activities, participants were asked to assess their relative level of compatibility. Ten different land-based activities were included for consideration in this matrix, these activities representing the primary recreation groupings relevant to outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. Table B-6 activities included were ATV riding, camping, cross-country skiing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, linear trail biking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, and wildlife watching. A separate matrix compared six water-based activities, as shown in Table B-7. These activities included canoeing/kayaking, fishing, personal watercraft, motorboating/water skiing, sailing, and swimming. Recognizing the asymmetrical nature of outdoor recreation conflict, respondents were asked to rate the degree of compatibility in both directions of recreational interactions. In this way, conflict was rated for users of the first activity interacting with users of the second activity, and users of the second activity interacting with users of the first activity.

| PRIMARY USE: | INTERACTS: | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| | ATV Riding | Hunting | Snow-mobiling | Horseback Riding | Mountain Biking | Cross-Country Skiing | Linear Trail Biking | Hiking | Wildlife Watching | Camping | Average Compatibility |
| ATV Riding | X | 5.3 | 6.5 | 5.1 | 5.5 | 4.9 | 5.5 | 6.1 | 6.9 | 7.5 | 6.0 |
| Hunting | 3.3 | X | 3.7 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 5.3 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 6.0 | 6.3 | 5.0 |
| Snowmobiling | 4.3 | 4.0 | X | 4.0 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 5.8 | 5.3 | 6.3 | 7.2 | 5.1 |
| Horseback Riding | 2.2 | 3.5 | 3.0 | X | 3.8 | 4.9 | 4.5 | 6.3 | 7.3 | 7.7 | 4.8 |
| Mountain Biking | 3.1 | 3.6 | 4.7 | 4.8 | X | 5.7 | 8.1 | 6.1 | 7.4 | 8.0 | 5.7 |
| Cross-Country Skiing | 1.8 | 3.6 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 4.2 | X | 5.6 | 4.9 | 8.1 | 8.5 | 4.7 |
| Linear Trail Biking | 2.6 | 3.9 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 8.2 | 7.1 | X | 7.4 | 8.0 | 8.7 | 6.3 |
| Hiking | 2.4 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 5.7 | 4.7 | 6.1 | 6.5 | X | 8.9 | 9.2 | 5.6 |
| Wildlife Watching | 2.2 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 6.4 | 5.2 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 8.6 | X | 8.3 | 5.7 |
| Camping | 3.9 | 4.1 | 5.0 | 7.5 | 7.8 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.9 | 8.5 | X | 6.9 |
| Average Compatibility | 2.9 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 6 | 6.3 | 6.6 | 7.5 | 7.9 | |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Ratings below 4.0 are highly competitive or antagonistic. | Ratings between 4.0 and below 7.0 are moderately to mildly competitive. | Ratings 7.0 and above are supplementary or complementary |
|---|---|--|

Source: WI SCORP 2005

| Table B-7 | | Average Water Based Recreation Activity Compatibility Ratings | | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--|----------|---------|---------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| PRIMARY USE | INTERACTS | | | | | | |
| | Personal Water Craft | Motorboating/ Water Skiing | Swimming | Fishing | Sailing | Canoeing/ Kayaking | Average Compatibility |
| Personal Water Craft | X | 7.1 | 5.4 | 5.9 | 6.5 | 6.2 | 6.2 |
| Motorboating/Water Skiing | 6.5 | X | 4.9 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 5.7 |
| Swimming | 2.9 | 3.5 | X | 6.1 | 6.2 | 7.4 | 5.2 |
| Fishing | 2.5 | 3.0 | 5.4 | X | 6.5 | 7.7 | 5.0 |
| Sailing | 3.4 | 4.3 | 6.4 | 7.0 | X | 7.6 | 5.7 |
| Canoeing/Kayaking | 2.6 | 3.2 | 7.6 | 7.9 | 7.4 | X | 5.7 |
| Average Compatibility | 3.6 | 4.2 | 5.9 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 7.0 | |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Ratings below 4.0 are highly competitive or antagonistic. | Ratings between 4.0 and below 7.0 are moderately to mildly competitive. | Ratings 7.0 and above are supplementary or complementary |
|---|---|--|

Source: WI SCORP 2005

How to read Tables B-6 and B-7 – Ratings reflect the perceived level of conflict from the perspective of users listed in the vertical Y axis (labeled as Primary Use). Ratings indicating a user’s level of perceived recreation conflict should therefore be read horizontally across rows. For example, hunting interaction ratings range from a low of 3.33 for interactions with ATV riding to a high of 6.30 for interactions with camping. Light gray shading represents generally complementary recreation interactions, no shading represents generally compatible interactions, and dark gray shading represents generally antagonistic interactions.

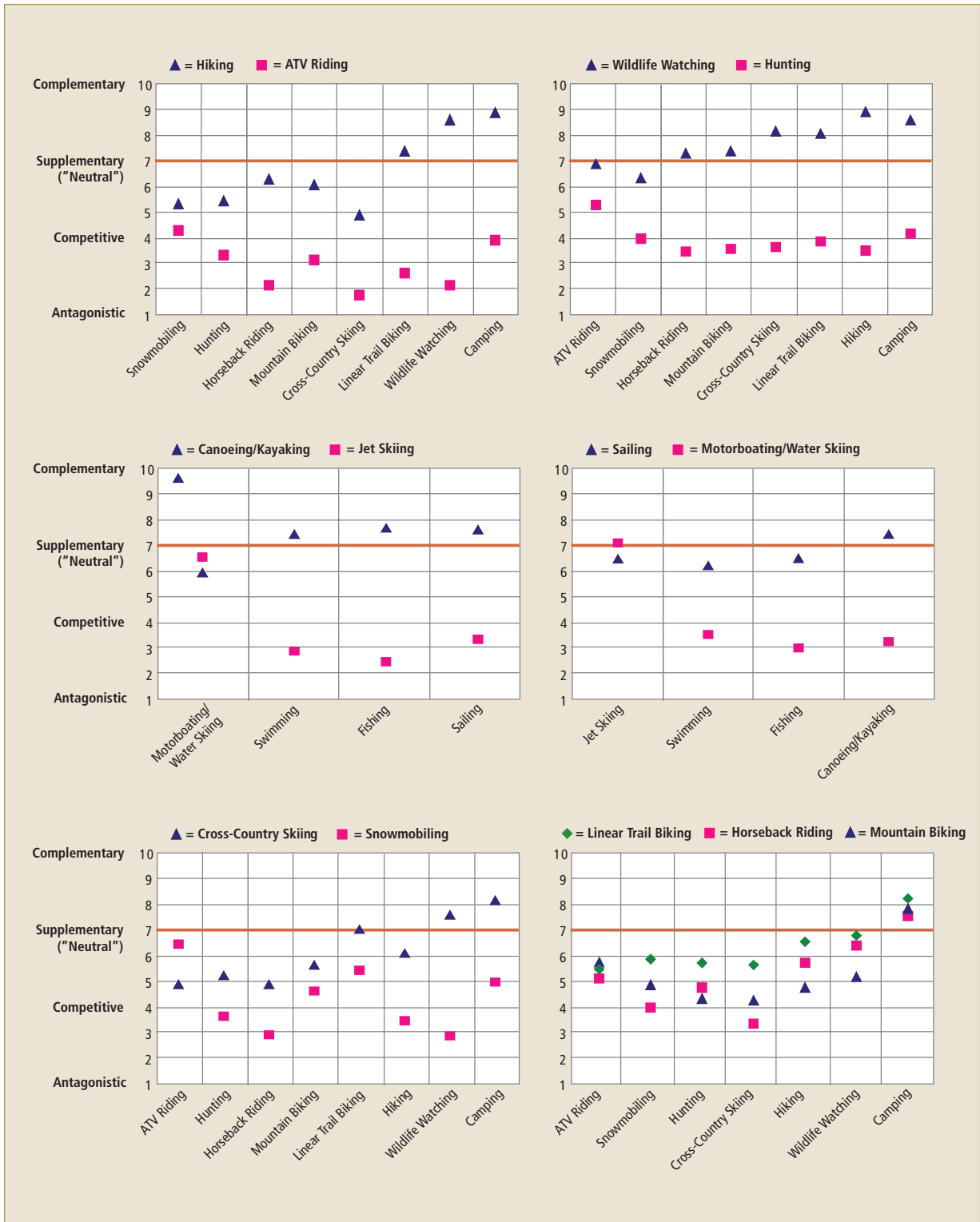
Results of survey of recreation professionals suggest some interesting patterns in recreation compatibility. While there was some variability in responses gathered, there are clearly some activities that recreation managers feel are complementary or supplementary and others that appear to be much more competitive or antagonistic. The average ratings reported for land-based recreation activity interaction ranged from 9.2, a number representing complementary interactions (recorded for hiking with camping), to 1.8, a number representing antagonistic interactions (recorded for cross-country skiing with ATV riding). For water-based activities, average ratings ranged from 7.9 for canoeing/kayaking with fishing to 2.5 for fishing with personal water craft. The average compatibility rating for land- and water-based outdoor recreational activities are summarized in Tables B-6 and B-7.

A second observation from Tables B-6 and B-7 indicates that differences in compatibility between motorized and non-motorized activities becomes less pronounced when more specialized trail based activities such as cross-country skiing, horseback riding, mountain biking and linear trail biking are compared to motorized activities. Because these types of specialized activities need particular kinds of trail infrastructure and have activity styles that are not as compatible with other recreation activities, they are often partially separated from other recreation activities. This may explain the higher levels of compatibility recorded between these activities and motorized uses.

4

Chapter 4: Compatibility and Conflict in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation

Figure 4-3: Average Outdoor Recreation Compatibility Ratings for Interaction with Highlighted Activities



Recreation User Perceptions

One research study focused on forest-based recreation in Wisconsin and rated the compatibility of different recreation activities by surveying a large sample of outdoor recreation participants. Respondents in this study were asked whether they agreed with the statement that other recreational users were not bothersome. Results are displayed on the next page in SCORP Figure 4-3 taken directly from SCORP. Most respondents had some level of agreement with this statement.

In general, compatibility ratings in SCORP Figure 4-3 were lowest with motorized vehicle use or hunting and highest with primitive camping or hiking/skiing. These results suggest that recreation participants may hold a more positive view of outdoor recreation compatibility than recreation managers. In order to develop comprehensive management techniques, future research in the field of recreation conflict will need to elicit input from all groups involved in outdoor recreation – managers and participants alike.

Summary

Both antagonistic and non-antagonistic recreation interactions will best be addressed through proper recreation planning and management, and activities that will maximize positive interactions between non-antagonistic activities and mitigate antagonistic uses.

Chapter 5 – Wisconsin SCORP Regional Profiles.

Chapter 5 divides Wisconsin into eight SCORP planning regions and summarizes the unique characteristics that define each of them. Chapter 5 offers insights into what makes each individual region unique and valuable to statewide recreation, and also summarizes regional recreation needs.

Oneida County is part of the Northwoods Region shown on the SCORP Planning Regions Map.

The Northwoods Region counties have abundant natural and recreational resources. In the Northwoods Region these resources include the Northern Highland/American Legion State Forest, the Nicolet National Forest, the Wolf River, and the Peshtigo River. With its numerous high quality lakes and rivers, the region supports a large number of water-based recreation opportunities. Tourism is an important and growing business in the region as increasing numbers of visitors from Milwaukee, Madison, and Chicago make use of the Northwoods environment. With this influx of visitors and an ever-growing population of baby boomers retiring to the region, the Northwoods has experienced a surge in its seasonal housing and recreational property market. These properties and the populations they attract are expected to be an important influence on future recreation uses within the region.

In an attempt to quantify out-of-state recreation demand, this SCORP also examined the recreation demands of tourists visiting Wisconsin. In 2004, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism conducted a survey of both the Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul Designated Market Areas (DMAs). This survey gauged reaction demand by asking residents of each DMA what types of Wisconsin recreation they participated in. Data was separated according to SCORP Region and is listed in Table B-8

| Ranking | Chicago DMA | Minneapolis/St. Paul DMA |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Canoeing | Fishing |
| 2 | Hiking | Sightseeing |
| 3 | Fishing | Boating |
| 4 | Downhill Skiing | Camping |
| 5 | Camping | Hiking |

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Regional Public Perspectives on Top Recreation Issues and Needs

Certain issues are causing impediments to outdoor recreation opportunities within Wisconsin. In order to better understand these issues, the WDNR conducted a series of town meetings across the state. These meetings, conducted in 2005, collected 125 written comments and an additional 1,300 online comments. All survey participants were asked 2 questions:

- “What recreation issues will be growing in significance in the next 5 years?”
- “What barriers are keeping you from recreating outdoors as often as you would like?”

Northwoods Region summary of most common responses

The notes in brackets "(note)" after each point state how common the issue or need is throughout the state, by describing if it is unique to the Northwoods Region or not.

Issues

- Increasing ATV usage and associated impacts (an issue in most regions)
- Loss of public access to lands and waters (an issue in half the regions)
- Noise pollution from motorized activities (only in this region and Lower Lake Michigan)
- The possible loss of silent sport facilities (only in this region)

Needs

- More biking trails (a need in most regions)
- More hiking trails (a need in every region)

Relative Supply of Recreation by Type Based on Population

Recreation demand and recreation supply are fundamentally unique elements built on different units of measurement. Recreation supply represents the extent of physical resources present in a given region and gives some indication of user capacity. Various approaches for standardizing supply components have been developed. These approaches can be generalized into two groups; those that focus on relevant market size (population based) and those that focus on aggregate geographic extent (area based).

For the 2005-2010 SCORP process, a metric was developed to present the relative nature of recreation supply in Wisconsin. The recreation location quotient (RLQ) is the metric that provides comparable measures of a region's recreational resources. An RLQ is a measure of the difference in regional recreational characteristics as compared to a given reference region (the whole state).

Results suggest that regions with high demand for outdoor recreation do not provide opportunities for this recreation in proportion to their physical size. For instance, the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region (including Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, and the northern Chicagoland suburbs) and Southern Gateways Region (including Madison) have overall population based RLQs of less than one (0.52 and 0.92, respectively), which indicate a relative lack of recreation supply within these regions. When comparing these results to those of the less populous northern regions (the Great Northwest and the Northwoods), it is clear that northern regions have comparatively abundant opportunities relative to their low population (population based RLQs of 2.52 and 3.22 respectively).

Regional Land Legacy Areas for High Recreation Demand

Another important consideration for future recreational needs is the preservation and protection of the larger areas that provide space for popular regional activities. As part of the recreational Land Legacy process described in Chapter 3, Land Legacy sites were also identified within each region. These sites were chosen to provide recreational opportunities that could serve the recreational needs of an entire region. These sites should be considered the highest priority recreation areas to preserve and protect within the Northwoods Region.

The top five Land Legacy sites in the Northwoods Region are:

1. Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
2. Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest
3. Upper Wolf River
4. Upper Forks of the Flambeau River
5. Black River

Summary

One of the primary purposes of the SCORP is to identify shortfalls in recreation facilities (supplies) across the state. This identification process relies on both primary data gathering techniques such as surveys, as well as anecdotal comments on recreation user perceptions. By making use of both of these techniques, this SCORP has developed a comprehensive summary of recreation needs across the State of Wisconsin.

For this SCORP, targeting was done at the regional level, using regional demand, regional supply, local park and recreation plans, and public comment data to determine which recreation supplies are relatively in short supply. In addition, future trends were also considered through a process discussed in Chapter 3. The combining of these methods and techniques has resulted in a summary presented in Table B-9. To simplify the targeting technique, recreation needs were divided into nature-based and developed setting categories. This division allows for a clear distinction between recreation niches such as state parks and urban trails.

Table B-9 Northwoods Recreation Supply Shortages
Nature Based

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Campsites – electrical | Parks |
| Developed Setting | |
| Basketball Courts | Marinas |
| Bicycling clubs | Outdoor swimming pools |
| Boats/sailboat rental | Soccer fields |
| Dog parks (urban areas) | Softball diamonds |
| Playground facilities | Tennis courts |
| Horseback riding clubs | Trails – inline skating |
| Ice skating rings | Volleyball courts |

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Chapter 6 – Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Participation Trends and Observations.

Chapter 6 describes several key indicators for outdoor recreation trends and offers insights for future recreation participation and demand.

Key Indicators and General Trends

Demographics are some of the most important indicators of future recreational demand. The aging of the baby boom generation (born between 1946 – 1964) is a significant trend. Improved health, fitness, and lifestyle changes have assisted many baby boomers with continued participation in outdoor recreation well past previous generations. This group also has relatively high disposable incomes, allowing them to travel and participate in a diverse range of recreational activities. As this group continues to age, the demand for less active outdoor recreational pursuits and facilities – walking, gardening, and birding, for example – has become an increasingly important factor in state recreation demand. As more members of this demographic retire, one would expect a higher level of marginally fit recreation users, and more demand for mid-week recreation programs.

While the baby boom generation is important in predicting future recreation demand, Generation Y is also becoming an important group to watch. Members of this generation, born between 1981 and 1995, make up the largest consumer and recreation group in the nation. As Generation Y begins to enter the workforce and have families of their own, their specific demands will increasingly shape recreation supply and demand. Early indicators suggest that this group demands instant information access, has a high level of multi-tasking, and has low rates of physical activity.

More adults now remain single until their 30s and 40s, with many of those that do marry either postponing having children until later in their lives, or choosing to not have children at all. At the same time, single-parent families have also increased. For all of these groups, free time is perceived as an opportunity to spend time with family and friends and as such, they often seek out recreation activities that allow group participation.

While group activities are popular among single parent and no-children families, members of these demographics are often also interested in the more active and unusual recreation available in experiential trips and other non-traditional recreation activities. Traditional team sports such as football have reached a plateau in their growth, while more modern activities such as geocaching and disc golf continue to rise in popularity.

Recreation demand has also been affected by changes in work and leisure trends. Data from this SCORP indicates that Wisconsinites consider time to be their scarcest resource. While dual-income households and flexible work schedules create more flexible recreation and travel patterns, the increasing demands of work often prevent people from participating in recreation as often as they would like. Work hours are longer, leisure hours less. Dual-income households in particular have felt the pinch of increased work hours as many American women (over 50%) now work outside the home. With all adults in a household working, free time available for recreating diminishes significantly. Because of these increased demands on limited spare time and the fact that households are generally busier with work and home life responsibilities, discretionary activities (activities that do not require scheduling) are expected to become increasingly popular in the coming years.

Population has a limited impact on recreation demand because recreational activities and interests vary significantly over a person's lifetime. Rather than examine total populations, it is more useful to examine the profile, size and participation rates within actual user groups to determine future recreation needs. Certain population groups representing potential service needs or demands may be divided into specific user categories called market groups. Once these market groups are defined, additional research can reveal the specific needs and demands of each group.

Health and wellness

Outdoor recreation is a component of physical fitness and a major focus of preventative care. Activity done as a part of outdoor recreational activities leads to a better quality of life physically, mentally, and socially. An examination of the current outdoor recreation industry reveals several trends: increased equipment sales, development of new activities, and growth in activities at both ends of the recreation spectrum. These activities include both those that are close to home and require little gear, such as walking, and those that require a large time commitment, a more adventurous attitude, and more technical gear, such as climbing, kayaking, and backpacking. The exact role public lands, recreational facilities, and outdoor activities will have in the future of health and wellness care is uncertain. It is undeniable that recreation can help maintain wellness. Over time, it is expected that the health benefits of recreation will become a constant feature of programming and investment in park facilities.

Environment

As the general public becomes more aware of environmental issues, concern over environmental quality is growing. Citizen expectations are also evolving with regards to the role regional and national environmental agencies play in local recreation and planning. More citizens are seeking an active role for themselves in environmental protection and conservation, a role that is creating a community-wide revitalization in environmental preservation and the provision of open space. This increased interest in the environment has also affected recreation participation rates as more people visit areas of minimally altered environments and trails. Although environmental awareness is growing, environmental degradation continues. Global warming has begun to impact outdoor recreation, creating longer warm seasons, shorter cold seasons, and unpredictable climatic conditions. In the future, these changes will create an extended season for warm weather activities

and a shortened season for cold weather activities. Changes to the landscape resulting from less dependable weather patterns will make seasonal recreation less reliable and planning for this type of recreation more difficult. **(NCWRPC Note: Global warming has two trends in Wisconsin that affects recreation professionals. First, the amount of precipitation falling in each season is now falling during extreme events, some of which are called 100-year floods. Recreation managers may need to consider how erosion and floodwater flow will affect outdoor recreation resources. A second trend is lower lake levels. More boat launches may need extending into lakes.)**

Technology

Electronic communication innovations have created interactive opportunities for recreation through the Internet, computer simulated games and sports, and other electronic sources. Although this new technology has increased and diversified the overall pool of recreational opportunities for users to choose from, it has also detracted from participation in more traditional recreation activities. In order to compete with non-traditional activities, providers of outdoor recreation must continue to provide and maintain high quality service in all their recreational programming and facilities.

Economics

Increasingly, there is a rift between those that have access to recreation and those that do not. While household income is increasing, individual income in real growth terms is expected to decline. The fact that most homes are now two-income households results in two primary challenges. For affluent households with more discretionary income, additional resources from dual incomes are often used for leisure activities including travel and entertainment. This affluent population has a greater ability to participate in a broader spectrum of recreation. At the same time, however, there has been an increase in the percentage of the population that falls within poverty guidelines. This growing gap between the rich and the poor has prompted an interest in developing separate strategies for the provision of leisure services for these two populations.

This disparity in income levels has created new demands for outdoor recreation as affluent families seek out new and exciting forms of recreation and less affluent families seek out high-quality, low-cost forms of recreation. As recreation activities compete for household recreation dollars and available time, there has been an increased emphasis on value and diversity of choices in recreational activities. To remain competitive with other facilities and to appeal to family households, facilities such as swimming pools must now have the most modern equipment and technologies such as water slides and interactive play areas.

Government

Whether state or locally owned, a large percentage of recreation lands are government owned and managed. Pressures on government lands— greater scarcity and high cost of land, rising operating costs and revenue limits, and increasing anti-taxation sentiment—will all affect the operation and development of recreational facilities and programs on these lands. Recreation is also becoming more market driven, meaning that activities are increasingly subject to competition between private, public, and non-profit recreation providers. A broad issue of what constitutes public access to public sponsored facilities and programs may challenge the financial feasibility of building new facilities and maintaining existing ones. Subsidized programs and minimal use fees could be difficult to maintain in light of these conditions.

Changing Land Use

Over time, Wisconsin's population has shifted from a predominantly rural population to a predominantly urban population. Today, roughly two-thirds of the state's population lives in urban areas, with more people migrating to these areas every year. Because of this shift, urban fringe areas are becoming an increasing hotbed for recreation activities. Facilities and spaces such as local dog parks, urban trails, and green space allocations, are all reflections of this increasing urban/suburban demand. Residential development in rural areas has continued as better highway networks provide for easy access to urban services and workplaces. Regional land use planning will continue to be a primary component in the provision of recreational activities within an ever-changing suburban environment.

Wisconsin Trends

Wisconsin's population grew 7.3% between 1994 and 2004 and is expected to grow another 3.3% by 2010. This growth, along with the state's sizeable population of baby boomers now reaching retirement age, will create a larger demand for passive recreational activities. Land resource-based activities have increased just over 27% in a ten year period. Much of this increase has occurred in the areas of wildlife viewing and off-road driving, both relatively inactive activities. While not generally popular among older participants, the biggest change in recreation participation has been in the area of snow- and ice-based activities. Much of this change may be attributed to recent advancements in equipment technology and an increased interest in snowboarding and ice skating.

In Chapter 2 of SCORP, Oneida County is listed as part of the Northwoods Region, which supports outdoor recreation uses by the natural resource settings that are: Nature Based, and Snow & Ice Based. Table B-10 supports a growth scenario for snow and ice based, and nature based activities.

| Resource Type | # of Participants in Millions | | Percent Change |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| | 1994* | 2004** | 1994-2004*** |
| Snow and ice based activities | 1.29 | 1.84 | 43.1 |
| Land resource based activities | 3.15 | 4.02 | 27.3 |
| Water resource based activities | 2.77 | 2.98 | 7.8 |

*1994 population = 5,133,678; **2004 population = 5,509,026; ***% growth = 7.3%
Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

| Activity | Number of Participants in Millions* | | Percent Change 1994-2004 |
|----------------------|--|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 1994 | 2004 | |
| Kayaking | 0.051 | 0.262 | 413.7 |
| Horseback riding | 0.136 | 0.407 | 199.3 |
| Personal water craft | 0.136 | 0.403 | 196.3 |
| Snowboarding | 0.074 | 0.195 | 163.5 |
| Rock climbing | 0.097 | 0.245 | 152.6 |
| Soccer outdoors | 0.175 | 0.407 | 132.6 |
| Drive off-road | 0.513 | 1.073 | 109.2 |
| Orienteering | 0.054 | 0.112 | 107.4 |

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Recreation projections can be examined in two ways. The first is simply participation as a numerical total. For the vast majority of recreation activities, this number will increase as the state’s population does. To gauge a more accurate view of future participation, it is far more useful to examine a given activity’s participation rate as a percentage of the total population. This number gives a better understanding of population growth vs. participation change in an activity. Table B-11 considers the percentage changes in recreation participation rates, as well as industry forecasts and opinions from recreation professionals, to suggest which activities will be popular in the future. These observations are made for a five year period, and therefore reflect the most pressing demands on recreation in the immediate future. Some of these activities such as ATVing, RV camping, and geocaching are expected to grow in popularity. Other activities such as swimming, day hiking, and fishing, are expected to remain stable in their popularity. Still others such as personal watercraft, skiing, and mountain biking are expected to decrease in popularity.



Kayaking experienced the highest percentage change in participation from 1994 to 2004, growing 413.7%. But 262,000 people participating are only about 4% of the Wisconsin population.

The next three tables – increasing demand (Table B-12), stable demand (Table B-13), and decreasing demand (Table B-14) – show projected trends in Wisconsin outdoor recreation activities from 2005 to 2010. Each table lists an activity and has a comment to assist with projecting the need for a particular activity.

| Table B-12 | Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities Increased Demand 2005-2010 |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Activity | Comment |
| ATV | Market saturation may occur by 2010 causing this use to level off. |
| Bird watching | A popular activity for an aging baby boom population. |
| Canoeing | Cheap, easy water access for all generations. |
| Driving for Pleasure | An easy activity for all generations. |
| Gardening | On the rise with the baby boom population. |
| Geocaching | Popular both with families and members of the Y Generation. |
| Kayaking | Better technology has made this an affordable sport for the general public. |
| Motorboating | Costs have decreased enough to continue to make this a popular activity. |
| Off-road | Record sales of off-road vehicles continues to fuel this demand. |
| Motorcycling | |
| Paintball Games | Better and cheaper technology attracts the Y Generation. |
| Picnic | A family activity crossing generation gaps. |
| Road Biking | Increases will slow do to the retirement of Lance Armstrong and the effect that was felt from his Tour de France wins. |
| RV Camping | The baby boom population continues to change from tent to RVs, but increasing fuel prices may slow this. |
| Skateboarding | Popular with urban youth and the Y Generation. |
| Snowboarding | This may start to level off by 2010 as the next generation looks towards newer technology. |
| Snowshoeing | Not growing as fast since 2002. |
| Visit a Dog Park | Urban residents continue to demand more of these areas. |
| Walking | Popular among all ages, though especially aging baby boomers. |
| Water Parks | Construction of new water parks continues to fuel the increasing demand for this activity. |
| Wildlife Viewing/Photography | Often done in conjunction with driving for pleasure, making this activity very popular. |

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

| Table B-13 | | Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities Stable Demand 2005-2010 | |
|----------------------|---|--|--|
| Activity | Comment | | |
| Cross-Country Skiing | Stable at this time but mainly driven by the baby boom. Declines may start by 2010. | | |
| Day Hiking | An easy, popular activity for all generations. | | |
| Disc Golf | Popular with younger urban generations. | | |
| Fishing | Very popular with all generations. | | |
| Horseback Riding | Continues to be popular with the boomers, but may not be popular with the Y Generation. | | |
| Ice Skating | An easy, cheap activity for the mass public. | | |
| Inline Skating | After a quick rise in the 1990s this activity has leveled. | | |
| Rock Climbing | A small but stable Y Generation niche. | | |
| Rowing | A small niche activity with simple equipment. | | |
| Run/Jog | The baby boomer generation continues to do this, but Y Generation may not. | | |
| Sailing | Equipment demands and skill requirements prevent this from growing. | | |
| Scuba/Snorkel | A niche sport that attracts a younger generation. | | |
| Swimming | Always popular – water quality issues have caused growth in this activity to stagnate. | | |
| Tennis | A recent resurgence has stabilized this activity. | | |
| Tent Camping | Still popular but may start to lose ground to the RV trend. | | |

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

| Table B-14 | | Projected Trends in Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Activities Decreasing Demand 2005-2010 | |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
| Activity | Comment | | |
| Backpacking | A popular baby boomer activity not as popular with the Y Generation. | | |
| Downhill Skiing | Continues to struggle with attracting the Y Generation. | | |
| Golf | Time and expense continue to push players to other recreation. | | |
| Hunting | Continues to struggle with generational loss and access issues. | | |
| Personal Watercraft | Market saturation occurred in the 1990s with the baby boomers who are now replacing their personal watercraft with motorboats. | | |
| Mountain Biking | Baby boomers that made the sport popular in the 1990s have switched to road bikes. | | |
| Snowmobile | The industry struggles with how to attract more people with less snow. | | |
| Team Sports | Except for soccer, all other sports have declined. | | |

Source: WI SCORP 2005-2010

Chapter 7 – Wisconsin SCORP Outdoor Recreation Goals and actions.

Chapter 7 describes eight goals and actions intended to improve the supply of outdoor recreation within Wisconsin, and encourage state residents to participate in more outdoor recreational activities.

Goal 1: Protect, Restore, and Enhance Wisconsin’s Natural Resources for Outdoor Recreation

Wisconsin’s lands and waters are a natural draw for outdoor recreation. Those who use the state’s environments expect clean waters to paddle on and healthy forests to hike in. Increasingly, however, these natural resources are being menaced by threats such as invasive species, environmental degradation, and the continued fragmentation of forest and other natural areas. Left unmanaged, these threats will contribute to a diminished quality of outdoor recreation within the state. Wisconsinites are aware of the danger in these threats and have identified two issues—control of invasive species and poor water quality—as matters of high importance for state management.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Continue to provide protection to lakes, rivers and streams to improve aquatic habitat, water quality, and fisheries.
2. Continue to provide programs and funding for access to industrial forestry lands for outdoor recreation activities.
3. Continue to implement an invasive species control program on Wisconsin lands and waters.
4. Increase protection to wetlands, thereby benefiting the ecological and recreational resources of the state.
5. Continue to provide funding and assistance for the restoration of native prairies and grassland ecosystems.
6. Continue to support and fund the Smart Growth Planning process to help stop the fragmentation of open spaces while also allowing for development.

Goal 2: Continue to Improve and Develop Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Upkeep and development of outdoor recreation facilities continues to be a central component of providing a quality outdoor recreation experience. Without proper facilities—an ice rink to skate on or an outdoor pool to swim in, for example—recreating outdoors becomes a challenge. A variety of publicly funded programs such as the Stewardship 2000 Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund are important partners in the funding and support of these developments. While development helps expand the recreational resources and facilities of an area, maintenance sustains the resources already developed within a region. This efficient use of existing resources allows more money and time to be directed towards development of new facilities. Upkeep can be as simple as painting a building or as complicated as upgrading a water and sewage system within a state park. Because of its important role within any park system, it is important that providers allocate enough resources to support facility maintenance. The State Park system alone has a \$90 million backlog of maintenance projects, all of which are important to the continued health of the system. As this backlog continues to grow, more recreationalists are noticing the effects of limited upkeep: less signage, less restroom monitoring, un-maintained grounds, and earlier seasonal closings.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Continue to maintain and renovate outdoor recreation facilities for future generations.
2. Provide for continued development and enhancements of urban outdoor recreation facilities such as soccer fields and playground equipment.
3. Provide for expansion of the following trail systems: hiking, biking, horse, and water.
4. Enhance and upgrade signage and maps for all outdoor recreational lands and waters.
5. Continue to acquire lands for outdoor recreation at all levels of government.
6. Support publicly funded programs that provide financial assistance for the actions listed above.

Goal 3: Understand and Manage the Growing Issue of Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Conflicts

As demand for different outdoor recreation activities grows, managing the conflict that develops between these uses will become an increasingly important issue of public policy. Two conflict arenas merit continued creative management from those charged with prioritizing public resources. The most obvious conflict arena is that which develops between different users of Wisconsin's finite land and water base. This conflict has developed as a result of both an increased demand for outdoor recreation activities and the development of new recreation technologies that have facilitated activities such as geocaching and ATVing. The second conflict arena is that which develops between outdoor recreation and other forms of land use. This conflict has impacted the development and maintenance of open space, creating struggles in the development of residential, agricultural, and managed forest areas. These conflicts have not gone unnoticed by state residents who have witnessed a rise in noise pollution, an overcrowding of public lands and waters, and increased development pressures on parks and open spaces.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Proactively plan for increased user conflicts and provide for increased recreation uses consistent with the state's growth in population.
2. Develop public and private management tools for addressing user conflicts.
3. Increase funding for outdoor recreation law enforcement authorities so that they may better enforce outdoor rules and regulations.
4. Examine and understand Wisconsin's capacity for local and state recreation growth according to the state's natural resource base.
5. Designate more public land for recreational use to better meet the increasing demand for outdoor recreation.
6. Examine options such as private landowner incentive programs, which would allow public access to private lands.

Goal 4: Continue to Provide Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Education and Programming

Outdoor education and programming continue to be in high demand among Wisconsin citizens. These programs are particularly important for urban populations who have lost opportunities to practice outdoor skills on a regular basis. By providing for structured recreational opportunities such as kayaking and outdoor sports, recreation providers will establish a base user population that will

carry the activity into the next generation. Equally important to this programming is the teaching of environmental ethics. As our society continues to use land in ever more intrusive and environmentally degrading ways, there is a real need to instill the “land ethic” philosophy in all outdoor users.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Provide funding and support for joint outdoor recreation programs between schools, government, and communities.
2. Provide funding and support for more outdoor recreation skills courses.
3. Develop programs that begin to address the state’s diversifying urban populations.
4. Develop and support programs that bring nature based experiences close to home for urban, low income youth.
5. Provide more courses in environmental education and ethics.

Goal 5: Continue to Provide and Enhance Public Access to Wisconsin Recreational Lands and Waters

As recreation continues to place demands on public lands and waters, the lack of public access to these areas has become an increasing concern among many state citizens. In some cases this perception is true; more water/boating access is needed in certain areas of the state. In many cases, however, public access to recreational resources does exist, the public is simply not aware of it. Improved and easily accessible maps and signage would aid the public in locating access points.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Develop a statewide interactive mapping system showing all public lands and water access points across the state.
2. Continue to acquire and develop boating access sites to meet public boating needs.
3. Promote awareness of the location of existing recreation lands, facilities, and opportunities available within a given region.
4. Continue to increase public access to Wisconsin waterways.
5. Continue to improve disabled accessibility for outdoor recreation facilities, and promote the development of facilities using universal design standards.

Goal 6: Understand the Threats and Opportunities of Wisconsin’s Developing Urban Areas and Areas of Rapid Population Growth

While most of Wisconsin’s landscape is rural, most people in Wisconsin (68%) live in a relatively small urbanized area of the state. This population is concentrated in the southern and eastern portions of the state, especially in the Lower Lake Michigan Coastal Region (home to Milwaukee and expanding Chicago suburbs). Urbanization has proved to be a double-edged sword for recreation; it provides many opportunities for diverse recreational opportunities, but it also poses a threat to the environmental and recreational resources of the state. Threats from urbanization include the continued loss of agricultural/ outdoor recreation lands, the increasing tension of urban populations recreating in urban/rural fringe areas, and decreasing water quality and habitat availability.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Continue to protect prime recreation lands through the use of publicly funded programs such as the Stewardship 2000 Program.
2. Develop trail networks that offer easy access from urban/suburban areas to rural areas.
3. Encourage communities to develop park and open space plans that allow for balanced growth while also providing land and facilities for outdoor recreation.
4. Continue to develop and provide active outdoor sports facilities such as soccer fields and tennis courts.
5. Continue to provide and expand community and neighborhood parks for multiple forms of outdoor recreation.

Goal 7: Maintain and Enhance Funding Opportunities for Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation

From its early years establishing the original state parks, Wisconsin has had an active program of state land acquisition. The latest iteration of these programs is the Stewardship 2000 Program. Under this program the state may issue bonds in a total not to exceed \$572 million spread over a ten year period. The Stewardship Program is biased towards land acquisition, with lesser amounts provided for property development and local assistance. As Wisconsin receives an increasingly smaller portion of state resources—Wisconsin State Parks rank 49th in the nation for total percentage of state budget—funding programs have provided vital support to outdoor park and recreation lands and facilities.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Renew the State Stewardship 2000 Program.
2. Encourage all local governments to develop park and recreation plans for participation in state and federal cost share programs.
3. Provide more cost share opportunities for local governments to acquire, develop, and maintain recreational lands and facilities.
4. Increase Wisconsin State Parks funding to the nationwide average of 0.2% of state budget, or \$53 million a year.
5. Explore new and innovative funding methods for outdoor park and recreation facilities. These methods may include public/private partnerships or cost sharing among multiple government agencies.
6. Increase revenue generating capabilities for outdoor recreation by continuing to update and improve technologies such as automated fee collection systems.
7. Explore the option of an exercise tax on outdoor recreational equipment to help fund park and recreation developments.

Goal 8: Promote Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation as a Means to Better Health and Wellness for State Citizens

The United States as a whole is in the midst of an overweight and obesity epidemic brought on by increasingly sedate and inactive lifestyles and higher caloric intakes. This epidemic has profound consequences in terms of increased health care costs and shortened life expectancies. Outdoor park and recreation areas can be key partners in reversing this trend as they provide the type of active recreational opportunities that promote physical fitness. Encouraging Wisconsinites to use

recreation lands and facilities will benefit not only park and recreation areas, but also the state citizens themselves who receive the health benefits of increased activity—a true win-win proposal.

Actions and Recommendations

1. Encourage individuals, workplaces, community groups, and schools to become physically active by promoting programs such as the Governor’s Wisconsin Challenge program.
2. Develop a “Get Fit with Wisconsin” campaign for public lands and waters that touts the health benefits of recreation and reaches a wide audience of potential users.
3. Educate the public about the health benefits of moderate and enjoyable physical activities such as walking, biking, nature study, etc.
4. Integrate opportunities and incentives for exercise during the workday—giving employees 30 minutes a day for exercise, providing exercise equipment and changing rooms, etc.
5. Start a dialogue between public outdoor recreation providers and health agencies to identify other (non-traditional) funding sources for recreational facilities and development.



The 2005–2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

SCORP

ATTACHMENT C

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EMAILED AND MAILED REMARKS

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Ruth Sproull"
Date: Tue, 17 Feb 2009 07:49:30 -0600
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Hi,

I'd like to throw my support behind Judy Swank's suggestion that the Cassian/Woodboro forest block have no further development involving motorized vehicles, setting it aside for additional silent sport development in the future. She said that motorized and non-motorized uses of the forest should be separated since they are incompatible. Should the county wish to increase motorized use of the forest, it should happen near existing areas for this use in the other two blocks.

I am writing my support of Judy's proposal as her friend, and not in any official capacity, because I think it is a reasonable idea.

Ruth Sproull

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: Jim Dyreby
Date: Tue, 10 Feb 2009 22:00:56 -0600
To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us
CC: Katy Dyreby

I support Judy Swank's position re the Cassian/Woodboro block.

Thanks.

Jim Dyreby MD
7310 Long Lake Rd.
Crescent Township
Land owner in Woodboro
Rhinelanders

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: David Nelson
Date: Fri, 13 Feb 2009 14:27:34 -0600
To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us

I have reviewed the 2009-2013 Outdoor Recreation Plan and have the following comments.

Table 6 on page 51 shows a total of \$35,000 to expand and pave the parking lot at Perch Lake Park. I believe that paving the parking lot is not needed and that the cost to expand the lot is overstated.

You should add in about 2 kilometers of new ski trail to make the Washburn Lake trails easier to ski now that the major trailhead appears to be at Perch Lake. Ski trail construction costs about \$2,000 per kilometer with the use of volunteers and probably double that if it is all contracted. It would also be well to invest in new grooming equipment and stop placing cable gates on the ski trails.

I have lived in Rhinelanders for about 2 1/2 years. In that time much of the road and parking areas at Almon Park have been gated closed. The park is very nice but the continued closure is hard to explain.

David Nelson

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: Tom Rulseh
Date: Mon, 16 Feb 2009 17:44:22 -0600
To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us
CC: Courtney Peterson

Please include the following projects in the 2009-2013 Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan:

1. A pedestrian route to connect the Towns of Three Lakes and Sugar Camp along County Highway A using the old Highway A roadbed for much of the 9 mile long route. This would be both a recreational trail and a viable alternative transportation route. This route would serve to connect the Sugar Camp Pre-K through 6 School with the Three Lakes School. Both schools are in the Three Lakes School District. It would also allow Residents of Sugar Camp to access the existing Three Eagle Trail which connects Three Lakes to Eagle River. The route has been researched by a team of Sugar Camp and Three Lakes citizens. Funding is the major obstacle to be overcome in completing this project.

2. A pedestrian route to connect the Three Eagle Trail Sundstein Road Trailhead with Ripco Road in the Town of Sugar Camp. This would be a woodland trail through private property. It would be about 3.7 miles long and provide a link to the north end of the Three Eagle Trail for the residents of Sugar Camp. This would also facilitate access to the City of Eagle River from Sugar Camp along quiet town roads and the connecting woodland trail. Completion of this route would depend on gaining the cooperation of land owners along the proposed route as well as funding the cost of constructing the trail.

Thank you,

Tom Rulseh

7006 West School Street

Three Lakes, WI 54562

715-546-8032

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Andy & Carrie Boettcher"
Date: Wed, 11 Feb 2009 09:32:25 -0600
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Please seriously consider not expanding motorized vehicle use in the Oneida County forest block. Specifically, Cassain/Woodboro.

The limited public space that is not drowned out by motorized vehicle use is a rare commodity.

As evidenced in Vilas county, tourists seek these areas out, and interest in them grows steadily as word spreads amongst silent sport enthusiasts.

These areas have seen a growth, and have potential growth for hiking, skiing, off road bicycle use, and geocaching. All of which draw visitors and encourage the health and well being of our community.

Andy Boettcher agboettcher@gmail.com

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Terry Cummings"
Date: Tue, 17 Feb 2009 20:27:19 -0600
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the ORP.

I am concerned with any potential expansion of areas opening up to motorized use in the County's Forest. This past fall I attended a Forestry Committee meeting, and a member of Mr. Bilogan's staff, I believe Paul, presented some enlightening information. With the exception of some wetland, I believe he said Black Spruce, the majority of the forest is already accessible within ¼ mile to motorized users. Also in the presentation, I learned that loggers prefer areas that have not been torn up by ATVs for timber harvests.

The ORP in its current form appears to be a good plan. I urge you to resist pressure to increase access to motorized users. I fear that three members of the current Forestry Committee do not have the best interest of the Forest at heart. Besides having no respect for the health of the Forest, I fear they will ignore the cost to the County for removal of gates and berms and also the added expense to timber harvest in favor of increasing motorized access. Also, I fear that they have no regard for users of the Forest whose activities would be impacted by expanded motorized use.

Respectfully,
Terry Cummings
Rhinelanders

Comments on FLORD

Subject: Comments on FLORD
From: arf@frontiernet.net
Date: Thu, 19 Feb 2009 15:54:54 +0000 (GMT)
To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us

1. In general, we don't have enough hiking trails in our area. People need more exercise and hiking wooded trails is so much more interesting than paved streets. Mowing ski trails once or twice during the summer season would add some needed hiking trails.
2. Make the Cassian-Woodboro County forest block non-motorized with exceptions to the snowmobile trail in winter and for handicapped hunter access.
3. Extend the Cassian-Woodboro ski trail west from its current turn-around end point to an access trailhead on Beaver Lake Rd.
4. Paving Perch Lake Park parking lot doesn't seem necessary when good gravel and grading would seem to take care of the needs and would be more in line with conservation guidelines.
5. Why abandon Townline swimming beach? I haven't seen much monitoring activities there recently. I've sometimes seen large family groups gathered there, perhaps people from nearby rural areas who look like they really enjoy a low-key place to hang out on a hot day. Instead, why not assess some issues of water quality with shoreline improvement, perhaps a demonstration area for shoreline restoration and replace those toilets with a single nice one.
6. We need more bike trails in town and between town and off-road bike trails. Encouraging people to use bikes for transportation is a great idea.
7. This may not be part of your planning area but I've always wanted to see a pathway along the Wisconsin river in Rhinelanders to encourage walking, strolling etc. along this scenic feature. Thanks for your efforts at maintaining our natural resources and providing quality recreational opportunities. In general, I would ask that non-motorized activities be stressed since this encourages healthful lifestyles and promotes a quieter interaction with nature and reduces emissions and noise pollution.

Sincerely, Anita Foss, resident of Rhinelanders WI.

Oneida County ORP Comments

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: RuthJaeger
Date: Wed, 18 Feb 2009 20:04:05 -0600
To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us

1. Make the entire Cassian-Woodboro County Forest block non-motorized with exceptions to be made for the snowmobile trail in winter and for handicapped hunter access. (and current town and county roads, obviously).
2. "Complete" the Cassian-Woodboro 2-way trail by extending it west from it's current turn-around point approx 1 mile to an access with parking at Beaver Lake Rd. This is approx 1.5 mile from Hwy 47 off of Fawn Lake Rd(1 mile north of McNaughton) so it would be a good access for Newbold and Lake Tomahawk folks. It would also alleviate some parking issues for neighbors of the trail where it crosses Sheepranch Rd.
3. Establish a mountain bike route on the Cassian Woodboro trail, routing to the snowmobile trail or town roads as needed to bypass the low area near Goodyear Lake. This would link to the Perch Lake trail head and Judy Swank Shelter. Also- complete the bike trail along Hwy 47, linking to Fawn Lake Rd which would allow a nice large trail/back road loop safely accessible by bike from town and much of the population of Newbold. Maintain for biking(mow Cassian-Woodboro trail occasionally).

In the plan Cassian reports hearing often from a small interest group about biking- Perhaps the same small group of people make frequent contact but bicycling is a very popular activity and I think that those people represent a large, active community of cyclists in the area and potential for tourism to the area!

Ruth Jaeger
6259 Black Lake Rd Rhinelander, WI 54501
715-277-2493

Oneida County ORP Comments

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: RuthJaeger
Date: Thu, 19 Feb 2009 21:17:28 -0600
To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us

On page 37 of the draft plan I read that surveys were distributed for input to Outdoor Recreation Clubs. At first I wondered why neither of the clubs I belong to seemed to have sought input from members. Then I noticed in the attachment that the only non-motorized club that received this survey was Oneida County hiking and Biking Trails Council. Why were the Northwoods Nordic Club, Northern Paddle and Trail Society not included in this distribution? Members of these groups form RASTA, instrumental in the Perch Lake shelter project. These are groups active in promoting outdoor recreation in the area. They have been represented at hearings and forestry committee meetings and should be known as organizations of interested people. There may be other interested organizations as well. I hope that in the future more effort will be made to equitably obtain input from the many people who participate in biking, hiking, hunting, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing, etc as well as the ATV and snowmobile clubs listed.
I do recognize that public meetings were announced but direct contact is more effective than media.

Ruth Jaeger
Newbold

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments

From: "Joel A. Flory"

Date: Thu, 19 Feb 2009 08:00:55 -0600

To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

I recently read the 5 year plan for Oneida County recreation and had a few comments:

1) The impacts of silent sport participants are far less injurious to the landscape and associated flora, fauna, water quality, etc. than motorized sports. In addition, the health benefits are far superior. I would like to see a continued focus on silent sport recreation on county lands. I recognize that there are existing trails/networks for ATV's and snowmobiles, but would like to see these maintained only with no increase in area. The aesthetics of being in the woods are easily destroyed for me and many others by the noise created from these machines.

2) On Page 40 there is a chart indicating the largest recreation issues as they relate to survey respondents. One of the major issues indicated is ATV trail creation. Based on the distribution list provided in the plan, this would be expected. It appeared to show a strong bias toward ATV association/clubs. Maybe I am misreading who was actually provided the survey. It may also be that by their very nature silent sports participants are naturally less vocal and more prone to work independently rather than organizing as many of the ATV/snowmobile participants do. That does not mean, however, that their needs and desires are any less important in my mind.

3 On Page 42 it notes that ATV use brings \$\$ into Oneida Co. That is true, but any trip into a local ski/sport shop during the winter will provide you with a broad cross section of the public that has traveled up to Oneida Co. to enjoy the many QUIET ski or snowshoe trails that exist. They bring in their fair share of \$\$ as well and any increases in motor sports in areas these folks frequent will likely cause them to travel elsewhere to spend their money.

4) On Page 56 there is a short note regarding ATV/snowmobile routes and their associated noise and human hazard. Please give this serious consideration when planning for the future of Oneida Co.'s excellent forests.

Please keep the needs of the silent sports participants in the forefront. It will be best for our natural resources and health of our residents!

Thanks,
Joel

Joel A. Flory
3131 Pleasure Point Drive
Rhineland, WI 54501
joelflory@frontiernet.net
715.490.3039

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: Kirk Reese
Date: Wed, 18 Feb 2009 14:20:05 -0600
To: Fred Heider <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us
CC: OCWBTC

These are comments from the Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Counsel, Inc.

The Counsel members suggested the following bike routes be implemented:

1. McNaughton to Woodruff - Start at end of Newbold Trail and use as much of the existing rail corridor as possible.
2. McNaughton to Bearskin Trail - Start at end of Newbold Trail to Fawn Lake Road.
3. Rhinelander to Bearskin Trail - Start at Rhinelander City limits and use or follow County Highway K. This should be off-road to the largest extent possible. Could use or follow Forest Lane, Velvet Lake Road, Co N, and Washburn Lake Road.
4. Rhinelander to Crandon - Start on old Hwy 8 to Lake George Road and use old rail corridor to Monico and on to Crandon.
5. County Hwy K to Tomahawk - Start at Bearskin Trail and continue to where trail ends at Lincoln Co. line.
6. Co. Hwy D from Lake Tomahawk to Hwy 51 at Hazelhurst. Providing access to the Bearskin Trail from LT.
7. A route to connect the Towns of Three Lakes and Sugar Camp along County Highway A using the old Highway A roadbed for much of the 9 mile long route. This would be both a recreational trail and a viable alternative transportation route. This route would serve to connect the Sugar Camp Pre-K through 6 School with the Three Lakes School. Both schools are in the Three Lakes School District. It would also allow Residents of Sugar Camp to access the existing Three Eagle Trail that connects Three Lakes to Eagle River. A team of Sugar Camp and Three Lakes citizens has researched the route. Funding is the major obstacle to be overcome in completing this project.
8. A route to connect the Three Eagle Trail Sundstein Road Trailhead with Ripco Road in the Town of Sugar Camp. This would be a woodland trail through private property. It would be about 3.7 miles long and provide a link to the north end of the Three Eagle Trail for the residents of Sugar Camp. This would also facilitate access to the City of Eagle River from Sugar Camp along quiet town roads and the connecting woodland trail. Completion of this route would depend on gaining the cooperation of landowners along the proposed route as well as securing funds to construct the trail.

In the Financial Assistance Section: Mark Ratty is listed as the DOT North Central Regional Bike/Ped Coordinator. That's incorrect. The coordinator is Dave Meurett, 1681 Second Avenue South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-4768.

Comments on Recommended Plan:

Attachment A – I find it upsetting that the only non-motorized organization that was contacted was the Oneida County Biking & Walking Trails Council (OCBWTC), and the contacts for that organization have not been involved for several years. Given the availability of the appropriate names of the members of the OCBWTC, and the other non-motorized organizations, I do not believe that the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) has done an adequate job of gathering information from non-motorized organizations. At a minimum, official requests should have been sent to the Paddle and Portage Group, Wisconsin Lakes Association, Trout Unlimited, Whitetails Unlimited, The Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), Northwoods Nordic Ski Club, birding groups, to name a few. Efforts should be made to obtain comments from these organizations and include them in the development of this plan.

Without these organizations, there is limited, if any, input from silent sports and gives the illusion that the authors of this rec plan may have steered clear of these organizations. It is ironic that seven of the nine symbols on the front of this document deal with silent sports activities and yet the appearance is that they have not been involved with its development.

Page 19-20 – There is a significant mention of snowmobile and ATV trails not maintained by the FLORD on these two pages. Yet, on the preceding pages there is no mention of the many miles of mountain bike, skiing, hiking trails in the county not maintained by FLORD. To mention a few: Northwoods Nordic ski trails and Rhinelander Public School ski trails; and the Hansen Lake and Crystal Lake/Mudd Lake mountain bike trails.

Page 23- The Oneida County Pedestrian and Bicycle Corridors Plan in 2002, is currently being updated by the OCBWTC (and the NCWRPC would have found that out if they had contacted the OCBWTC) and will be completed in approximately 6 months. This updated plan should be noted in this plan and adopted in its entirety when finished.

Page 24 – As indicated above, the Rhinelander school maintains a cross-country ski trail in the City of Rhinelander.

Page 26 – The correct name is Northwoods Nordic Trail, not Northwoods Golf Course. It is not maintained by the City of Rhinelander, but by the Northwoods Nordic Ski Club, which also maintains the Rhinelander School ski trail.

Page 27 – The Cassian Trail is maintained by the FLORD and should not be listed in this section.

Map 2 – The on-road bike route has now been extended from Crescent Road to the Perch Lake Shelter on Washburn Lake Road.

General Comment – There is one comment at the end of the public meeting regarding the Oneida County Economic Development Corporation's Sustainable Business Park that is currently being developed to the west of Rhinelander. This business park will provide hiking trails in a "sustainable" environment and promote this unique business park in northern Wisconsin. Discussion in this REC plan should be evaluated.

General Comment – There is no mention of the desire to make the Cassian-Woodboro forest a non-motorized corridor (from Nose Lake-County Trail to Washburn/Perch Lake County Trail to Cassian County Trail). With the development of the Perch Lake Trails and Shelter, this area has the potential to become a destination for mountain bikers, skiers, snowshoers, and hikers. By designating it as a non-motorized area, it would greatly enhance the marketability of this area to silent sports persons. How about making that recommendation part of this plan?

Tom Rulseh has articulated our goals and purpose in his statement to the Forestry Department, which is on page 42 of the recommended Plan.

Thank you.

Kirk Reese

President Oneida County Biking and Walking Trail Counsel, Inc.

Subject: RE: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Terry Cummings"
Date: Fri, 20 Feb 2009 19:57:46 -0600
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Dear Sirs:

I wish to add some comments to my previous contact from February 17th.

I attended last night's meeting, and apparently it is a foregone conclusion that motorized trails will be expanded in the Oneida County Forest. I did not know going into the meeting that the Forestry Department was an advocate for increasing ATV trails. With that in mind, I have the following comments to add.

- The majority of the testimony from the ATV clubs and dealerships (conflict of interest?) assumed that ATV riders stay on the trails. I did catch that the fellow Lake Tomahawk admitted that riders went off on their own as a "backlash" to not getting their way on the NHAL decision. The fellow from the Harrison Hills area admitted that riders made their own trails along power lines until they got what they wanted. That is the constituency you are dealing with. I have no doubt that the club representatives that testified were sincere; however, they are only one segment of ATV riders. The machines are not called trail riding vehicles. They are All Terrain Vehicles and are often used as such, legally or illegally. Also, the claim that ATV riders are self policing is overstated.
- I do not frequent ATV trails, so I have no experience with legal ATV use. Trails will, however, open up more areas for riders to venture off on their own. Lincoln and Langlade Counties were cited as models. Here a few of my experiences in Lincoln County.
 - a. While I was fishing the Big Rib River on County Forest and State property, 2 riders decided to use the trout stream as a wallow. They didn't simply ford the river, but spent a prolonged time period going back and forth across the river. After that they proceeded to a slough where an intermittent stream entered the river. Since the stream bottom consisted of deposited silt, they had a great time tearing things up. If you doubt me, contact Conservation Warden Frederick Peters who was able to follow their tracks and mud trail to catch them.
 - b. While I was fishing the dells of the Prairie River on County and Merrill City Forest property I observed the results of a rider's attempts to ford the river. This is steep terrain. The tracks indicated a couple of attempts before an illegal successful ford was accomplished leaving the bank at the exit completely collapsed.
 - c. During our recent extended drought, the Wisconsin River has become quite low. I have observed ATV riders in the river and on Menard Island.
 - d. While berry picking in the Menard Island area as a mentoring activity with my match from the Kinship program, 2 ATV riders nearly hit us as they were returning back along an abandoned trail that had been bermed.
 - e. An ATV owner constructed his own ford and approach across the Prairie River onto land that was not his in the Prairie River Fishery Area just upstream from Dudley.
- Based on the circumvented gates I've observed in the Nicolet side of the National Forest, ATV riders have not acknowledged the closure there.
- Several testified of the economic value of ATV trails citing the ability of riders to use the streets in Park Falls and having 30 or more ATVs parked outside of a tavern in Langlade County as ideals. Please note that some citizens might not share this idea of economic progress.

Therefore, since expanded ATV trails are almost inevitable, I am appealing to the Forestry Department and Forestry Committee to take on the measures necessary to ensure that ATV riders remain on the trails. If they end up impacting the health of the forest, including the ability to efficiently harvest timber, I'm afraid we will all have been duped, again.

I will go away now.

Sincerely,
Terry Cummings

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Scott"
Date: Tue, 17 Mar 2009 19:24:15 -0500
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Northern Paddle & Tail appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Outdoor Recreation Plan. Northern Paddle & Trail is a outdoor recreation organization based in Oneida County.

Recreation Priorities

The top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County are

- 1) Preserve silent sports opportunities in Oneida County
- 2) Provide long term planning for the expansion of hiking, biking, x-c ski, and snowshoe trails,
- 3) Development public water access and water trail opportunities.

Recreation Recommendations

- Northern Paddle & Trail recommends expanding the Washburn Silent Sports Area north to include the Cassian Ski Trail and to create a Nose Lake Silent Sports Area at the Nose Lake Ski Trail.
- Designate the Cassian/Woodboro County Forest block as a non-motorized area with exceptions to be made for the snowmobile trail in winter and for handicapped hunter access.
- Develop additional hike, bike, x-c ski, and snowshoe trails within the Cassian/Woodboro County Forest block.
- Provide water access opportunities and water trail development. Consider public access opportunities to waterways during bridge upgrades and culvert replacements. Seek opportunities to purchase property along waterways for public access and use.

Facility Improvements

- **Washburn Trail System:**
 - Add “easy” bike/ski/hike trail routes from the Perch Lake trail head to the Washburn Trail System. Create an easy trail loop north of the existing Perch Lake access trail. Add easy connection trail from Perch Lake to the eastern trail loops (“Judy’s Loop”).
 - Add snowshoe loops from Perch Lake trail head. Mark designated snowshoe trails.
- **Cassian-Woodboro:**
 - Establish a mountain bike/hiking route along existing Cassian ski trail system. Avoid wetland areas by routing summer trail to existing snowmobile trail. Link the bike/hike route to the Perch Lake trail head.
 - Extend the Cassian-Woodboro ski trail west to Beaver Lake Rd. Located 1 mile south of McNaughton, the Beaver Lake trail head will provide improved access to recreation uses traveling from Newbold and Lake Tomahawk.
 - Designate an additional section of winter ski trail open to dogs, similar to the designation at Nose Lake.
- **Nose Lake Trail:**
 - Relocate the trial head and parking lot at the Nose Lake Trail to Hancock Lake Road. Create a loop trail on the west side by tracking the ¼ mile blazed connection to the existing ski trail. The Hancock Lake trail head and parking area will provide better road access to the trails and eliminate the need to cross Hancock Road twice to complete a ski loop.

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: Willowweb@aol.com
Date: Tue, 17 Mar 2009 10:00:30 EDT
To: fheider@ncwrpc.org, jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us

Dear ;

Thank you including the Willow Region Sportsmans Club for participation in your Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Survey.

After review of your survey at our recent meeting, our club submits the following responses to the survey questions.

1. Please list the group represented.

Willow Region Sportsmans Club

2. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County?

1. ATV trail expansion and access

2. Improvement of existing and additional boat landings on the Willow Flowage particularly the west side.

3. Development of additional camp sites surrounding the Willow Flowage.

3. How shall the recreational issues described above in Question 2 be satisfied?

Designate additional ATV trails.

Improve and build more boat landings with regard to the west side.

Develop more camp sites.

4. What improvements would your group like made at any Oneida County FLORD managed facilities? Please list the park or trail, the general location, and then list the desired improvement.

NA

5. Do you feel that there should be new outdoor recreational facilities developed?

If so, where and what type of facilities, and what facilities would be discontinued to pay for these new facilities?

Add camp sites to the Willow area.

Improve and build more boat landings with regard to the west side.

Discontinue any less used or abandoned previous projects.

Charge a users fee or supplemental fee for use of the new facilities.

6. Please list any other suggestions or comments.

None

Thank you,

Willow Region Sportsmans Club

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Bikes And Boards"
Date: Tue, 17 Feb 2009 16:31:00 -0600
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Oneida County Representatives,

I'm writing with some concerns about discussions that have gone on at the County board table regarding taking down barriers and opening the silent trails areas to motorized traffic (Four-wheelers) There are many people in Oneida County that are outraged at the thought of mixing two totally different sport groups has even been considered! Thousands of people vacation in the Northwood's to get away from noise and enjoy the peace and quite of our wooded areas. These Motorized and silent sports should never be mixed! Keep the Washburn/Cassian/Nose Lake areas silent sports only areas!

There has also been talk of a connecting bike route from the City of Rhinelander to Washburn/Perch Lk. and Bearskin trail systems, this could be easily, safely and affordably done by signing existing low traffic roads that parallel County K and putting in an off road pathway from Velvet Lake road to County N.

Thank you,
Al Jozwiak
Rhinelander

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments
From: "Susan"
Date: Sun, 1 Mar 2009 16:57:57 -0600
To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Dear Oneida County Board,

Here are some suggestions for the Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

1. Extend the Cassian 2-way ski trail west from its current Northern most turn-around point to an access with Parking at Beaver Lake Rd. This is approx 1.5 mile from Hwy 47 off of Fawn Lake Rd, 1 mile north of McNaughton. And/or develop the existing shelter at the north end of the Cassian Trail as a warming shelter like the Perch Lake shelter but with only wood stove heat with shared car parking facilities for snowmobilers, skiers, hikers, or bikers.

2. Establish a mountain bike route on the Cassian Trail, routing to the snowmobile trail or town roads as needed to bypass the low area near Goodyear Lake or build strategic low bridges. This would link to the Perch Lake trail head and Judy Swank Shelter.

3. In addition to the dogs-allowed Nose Lake Ski Trail, establish another dogs-allowed ski trail or identity the existing northern third of the Cassian trail from Sheep Ranch north to allow dogs. Dog lovers appreciate having outdoor recreation areas where we can bring our dogs. The Shepherd Park dog park is also an excellent idea for a safe, fenced-in area to exercise and socialize dogs from Rhinelander and also for visitors/tourists who usually bring pets and need a place for them to run.

4. Allow color-coded circles, triangles, whatever to be painted on the trees of the Washburn-Perch Lake snowshoe trail to allow removal of the plastic flagging and prevent confusion about where the trail and loops go. It is a fun trail, but can get confusing.

5. Designate the Cassian-Woodboro County Forest block as non-motorized except for the snowmobile trail in winter and for handicapped hunter access.

Thank you for extending the comment period and for the good work you have been doing on the Washburn area trails and the Judy Swank Shelter. It is much appreciated!

Susan Watson

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments

From: "Virgil Davis"

Date: Tue, 17 Mar 2009 08:01:12 -0500

To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

These are personal comments from Virgil Davis at 2700 Range Line Road

The job of trying to wade through 66 pages of a plan on screen are somewhat intimidating and I certainly have not read it all but here goes –

The counties formal recreational facilities require three different phases. Construction, maintenance and operation. The county does an excellent job in the first two phases of the process. The construction of the facilities that I am familiar with are usually well thought out and done. The maintenance which has to be a monumental chore is well executed and the county can be proud of the condition of the facilities. It seems like when it gets to the operation and advertising of it that it doesn't quite measure up to the other two.

I will give you an example. I live on one of the two roads that are generally used to access the Almon Recreational facility which includes the Buck Lake Beach. I hate to see spring come because of the parties, loud stereos and speeding traffic that I know is just around the corner. Quite frankly, I have never seen any law enforcement present at the area. Maybe the law enforcement folks always come in from the Lassig road entrance but it seems like once in a while they would happen by the other access route. When I sit in my living room, I can hear my house windows rattle from the 1000 watt base speakers that fill the trunks and pickup beds. They travel so fast past the house that it isn't possible to get license numbers so it really doesn't make any sense to report it.

The point is if you are going to develop and maintain formal recreational opportunities, they need some ongoing supervision. You can't just provide the facility without some policing provisions. A few people always find a way to drive up the cost for all those well behaved people that the facility was designed and constructed for.

We are fortunate and sincerely blessed to have the county forest lands we have in Oneida County. I would guess it is the only department in the county that actually makes a profit for the county. Please make sure that the focus stays on keeping the forest a working forest producing pulp and lumber. The formal recreational aspect of the facilities in the plan should be relegated to a fringe benefit of a working forest. There are also many informal activities such as hunting, fishing, snowshoeing and cross country skiing that take place that are equally as important as the formal ones and they cost the county very little and we need to protect that access.

Virgil Davis
3/16/2009

Subject: Oneida County ORP Comments

From: "Hausserman, Dr. Sue"

Date: Mon, 2 Mar 2009 09:03:13 -0600

To: "fheider@ncwrpc.org" <fheider@ncwrpc.org>, "jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us" <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

I suggest that the Oneida County Health Department's 5-year "Healthy People Oneida County" plan also be listed as part of existing plans that impact this outdoor recreation proposal. The focus on healthy and active lifestyles is essential to the health of our citizens.

I recommend that we prioritize silent sports in this plan, including biking, hiking, and cross-country ski trails. These activities minimize impact on the environment and maintain the pristine nature of our Northwoods.

I further recommend that we eliminate any ATV expansion in our county forest, similar to the Northern Highland State Forest's plan. ATVs are intrusively loud and polluting, and they wreck havoc on the environment by scaring away wildlife and eating up the trails.

Oneida ORP

Subject: Oneida ORP

From: "Guy and Carole Hansen"

Date: Fri, 20 Mar 2009 16:34:28 -0500

To: <fheider@ncwrpc.org>

CC: "John Bilogan" <jbilogan@co.oneida.wi.us>

Dear Mr. Heider,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Oneida County Five-year Outdoor Recreation Plan. Please let me know if I need to send these by U.S. mail.

Guy Hansen

Oneida County
Outdoor Recreation Survey Comments
from RASTA were attached to this email.

ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY COMMENTS

1. From the Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA)—silent sports enthusiasts promoting the responsible use of public lands for the enjoyment of all
2. The top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County.

A. Improve and increase outdoor silent sport recreational opportunities to:

- Accommodate/promote healthful outdoor activities
- Provide safe, convenient places for Oneida County residents to recreate
- Attract visitors from outside the county to help improve our local economy.

How and Where?

1. Develop, map and sign additional snowshoe/single track bike trails in response to the increased popularity of both sports (e.g. from the west, south and north of Washburn Ski Trails.)

2. Work with the Highway Department Director and/or local user groups to provide a safe road bike link from the Judy Swank Shelter at Perch Lake to the Bearskin Bike and Snowmobile Trail. Accomplish this by developing an off-road trail along County Trunk K between Washburn Lake Road and Horsehead Lake Road. Bikers can then take Harshaw Road to the Bearskin Trail. Much of this potential trail is already available on old highway right-of-way.

3. Use the 'land purchase fund' to purchase land with water frontage (adjacent to existing county land, if possible). This should be done with the long range objective of creating a campground with access to a lake or river. Townline Lake is a top priority, but all other suitable, available waterfront should be considered.

4. Manage hiking/hunting trails and wildlife plots/openings for maximum wildlife productivity. Insure 'walk only trail' access and use is maintained.

5. Develop designated water trails by providing safe, light-water craft access at convenient put-in and take-out points. The Pelican and Wisconsin Rivers should be top priorities.

6. Maintain/improve existing boat landings to provide lake/river access for fishing (e.g. Town Line, Perch, Timber and Bass Lakes).

7. Designate, sign and manage existing asphalt roads (such as the road from the Almon Recreation Area parking to the walking trails) for sports enjoyed by younger park users such as roller skating and roller blading.

8. Upgrade Townline Lake Park to improve appearance and usability by replacing the toilets, repairing the road and parking lot and restoring the eroded shoreline.

B. Increase use of silent sport areas and trails to:

- Improve the general physical and mental health of Oneida County residents
- Increase county residents' appreciation of/for the forest land that their tax dollars help support

- Increase revenue through trail use fees
- Improve the local economy by bringing tourists to the area.

How and Where?

1. Work with local media and user groups to promote county park and trail use by Oneida County residents through infomercials, advertising and special events (e.g. feature the excellent Almon Park bog trail).
2. Work through Chambers of Commerce, Oneida County Tourism Council, internet web sites, etc. to promote county park and trail use to potential users throughout the Midwest.
3. Cooperate with other 'trail managers' in Oneida County to promote the many excellent town, county, state, federal and commercial trails in the county as a recreation destination.
4. Increase 'year round' hiking and biking use of winter trails by more frequent mowing to make trails more inviting and usable.
5. Develop or modify trails to incorporate special features that will draw users (e.g. vistas, bridges, benches, trail signs).
6. Develop trails that are less technical/difficult for beginning/young skiers.
7. Install large, attractive direction signs along main highways and side roads to make parks and trails easier to find and more likely to be used.

C. Preserve and protect the Oneida County Forest and the unique and valuable outdoor recreational opportunities it provides. Recognize 'the forest' for the valuable resource that it is.

How and Where?

1. Resist all efforts to sell any portion of the forest or to reduce its acreage or change its overall purpose.
2. Increase the designated silent sports acreage in the Cassian-Woodboro block of the forest to 1400 contiguous acres with the long-term objective of designating the entire Cassian-Woodboro block of county forest a silent sport recreation area (excluding existing motorized trail use within this forest block).
3. Manage timber harvest in trail areas to avoid excessively compromising the character of the trail being affected.
4. Repair/replace/maintain existing gates and berms to ensure that some portions of the county forest road and trail system are set aside for non motorized use as intended.
5. Insure that all new roads/trails developed for logging county forest land are properly blocked after the timber sale is completed.
6. Contract with park neighbors, volunteers or user groups to help monitor and maintain parks and trails (e.g. increase park security and reduce vandalism and inappropriate behavior by monitoring park use, restrict night-time park use and assist park users as needed; construct and/or maintain mountain bike/snowshoe trails in the county forest per IMBA guidelines).

March 20, 2009

ONEIDA COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

Please make comments on a separate sheet of paper and mail that sheet to be **postmarked by March 20, 2009** to:

Oneida ORP
NCWRPC
210 McClellan St Ste 210
Wausau, WI 54403

RECEIVED

MAR 23 2009

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Please list the group represented.

Northwoods Nordic Ski Club, Inc.
P O Box 105
Rhineland, WI 54501

2. What are the top three outdoor recreational issues facing Oneida County?

1. Maintain the integrity of the existing silent sports trails by enforcing the exclusion of all motor-vehicle traffic. There is a need to construct new barriers such that year-round access to these trails by all types of motor-vehicle traffic does not exist. We consider all skiing, biking, snowshoeing and hunter-walking trails as silent sports trails. Silent sports and motor-vehicle traffic **do not mix**.
2. The County should invest in better equipment (like a Tidd Tech G2 groomer or the YST Ginzu groomer) to groom the ski trails. In addition, the skiers would benefit if the groomers were sent to a grooming clinic like that offered at ABR trails near Ironwood MI. The quality of the classic track is often mediocre, largely due to outdated equipment.
3. Year-round maintenance of all the trails is necessary. A rotational system should be set up to mow **all** the double-wide trails at least once every two years and twice annually on the higher-use trails.

3. What improvements would your group like made at any Oneida County FLORD managed facilities? Please list the park or trail, the general location, and then list the desired improvement.

Expanding the current Washburn silent sports trail block to include an additional snowshoe trail northeast of the new Judy Swank Shelter and a new easy ski loop around the shelter for beginner skiers. In addition, it would be nice to connect the Nose Lake ski trail to the Washburn Lake ski trail. This additional trail would remove the need to transport the grooming equipment between the two trail systems and create a single larger system increasing the appeal as a destination ski system by our ski tourists.

5. Do you feel that there should be new outdoor recreational facilities developed?
If so, where and what type of facilities, and what facilities would be discontinued to pay for these new facilities?

No

6. Please list any other suggestions or comments.

THANK YOU FOR SEEKING OUR PARTICIPATION!

*Sue Lutz for
Board members of NNSC*

ATTACHMENT D

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

| SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Activity Format | Recommended Size and Dimensions | Recommended Space Requirements | Recommended Orientation | Service Radius and Location Notes |
| Badminton | Singles--17' x 44' Doubles--20' x 44' with 5' unobstructed area on both sides | 1622 sq. ft. | Long axis north - south | ¼ - ½ mile. Usually in school recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or biking or biking access. |
| Basketball 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate | 46' - 50' x 84' 50' x 84' 50' x 94' with 5' unobstructed space all sides. | 2400-3036 sq. ft. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 5600-7980 sq. ft. | Long axis north - south | ¼ - ½ mile. Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood/community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings. |
| Handball (3-4 wall) | 20' x 40' with a minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance. | 800 sq. ft. for 4-wall, 1000 sq. ft. for 3-wall. | Long axis is north - south. Front wall at north end. | 15 - 30 min. travel time, 4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose building. 3-2 all usually in park or school setting. |
| Ice Hockey | Rink 85' x 200' (Min. 85' x 185') Additional 5000 22,000 sq. ft. including support area. | 22,000 sq. ft. including support area. | Long axis is north - south if outdoors. | ½ - 1 hour travel time. Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multipurpose facility. |
| Tennis | 36' x 78'. 12 ft. clearance on both ends. | Min. of 7,200 sq. ft. single court area (2 acres per complex) | Long axis north - south | ¼ - ½ mile. Best in batteries of 2 - 4. Located in neighborhood/community park or near school site. |
| Volleyball | 30' x 60'. Minimum of 6' clearance on all sides. | Minimum 4,000 sq. ft. | Long axis north - south | ½ - 1 mile. |
| Baseball 1. Official 2. Little League | Baselines - 90' Pitching distance--60.5' Foul lines - min. 320' Center field - 400'+ Baselines - 60' Pitching distance - 46' Foul lines - 200' Center field - 200' - 250' | 3.0 - 3.85 A min. 1.2 A min. | Locate home plate so pitcher is not throwing across sun, and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound to run east-northeast. | ¼ - ½ mile. Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex. |
| Field Hockey | 180' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides. | Minimum 1.5 A | Fall season - Long axis northwest or southeast. For longer periods, north/south | 15 - 30 minute travel time. Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school. |
| Football | 160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides. | Minimum 1.5 A | Same as field hockey. | 15 - 30 min. travel time. Same as field hockey. |
| Soccer | 195' to 225' x 330' to 360' with 10' minimum clearance on all sides. | 1.7 - 2.1 A | Same as field hockey. | 1 - 2 miles. Number of units depends on popularity. Youth popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to fields or neighborhood parks. |
| Golf - Driving Range | 900' x 690' wide. Add 12' width each additional tee. | 13.5 A for min. of 25 tees. | Long axis is southwest - northeast with golfer driving northeast. | 30 minute travel time. Park of golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately operated. |

| SUGGESTED OUTDOOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS (continued) | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Activity Format | Recommended Size and Dimensions | Recommended Space Requirements | Recommended Orientation | Service Radius and Location Notes |
| ¼ mile running track | Over-all width - 276' length - 600'. Track width for 8 - 4 lanes is 32'. | 4.3 A | Long axis in sector from north to south to northwest - southeast, with finish line at north end. | 15 - 30 minute travel time. Usually part of a high school or community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc. |
| Softball | Baselines - 60' pitching distance - 45' men. 40' women Fast pitch field radius from plate - 225' Slow pitch - 275' (men) 250' (women) | 1.5 - 2.0 A | Same as baseball. indimensions for 16". | ¼ - ½ mile. Slight difference. May also be used for youth baseball. |
| Multiple use court (basketball, tennis, etc.) | 120' x 80' | 9,840 sq. ft. | Long axis of court with primary use north and south. | 1 - 2 miles, in neighborhood or community parks. |
| Archery range | 300' length x minimum 10' between targets. Roped, clear area on side of range minimum 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90' x 45' with bunker. | Minimum 0.65 A | Archer facing north + or - 45 degrees. | 30 minutes travel time. Part of a regional/metro complex. |
| Golf 1. Par 3 (18 hole) 2. 9-hole standard 3. 18-hole standard | Average length varies -600 - 2700 yards. Average length 2250 yards Average length 6500 yards. | 50 - 60 A Minimum of 50 A Minimum 110 yards | Majority of holes on north/south axis | ½ - 1 hour travel time 9-hole course can accommodate 350 people/day 500 - 550 people/day. Course may be located in community, district or regional/metro park. |
| Swimming pools | Teaching - min. 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3-4 ft. Competitive - min. 25 m x 16 m. Min. of 25 sq. ft. water surface per swimmer. Ration of 2 to 1 deck to water. | Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually 1 - 2 A sites. | None, but care must be taken in siting life stations in relation to afternoon sun. | 15 to 30 minutes travel time. Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching competitive and recreational purposes with enough to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site. |
| Beach areas | Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sa. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be a 3-4 A supporting area per A of beach. | N/A | N/A | ½ to 1 hour travel time. Should have a sand bottom with a maximum slope of 5%. Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas. In regional/metro parks. |

ATTACHMENT E

STATE AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs

Community Service Specialist
Rhineland Service Center
107 Sutliff Ave
Rhineland WI 54501

Acquisition Of Development Rights Grants (ADR)

Helps to buy development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values, that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. Applicants compete for funds on a statewide basis.

Aids For The Acquisition And Development Of Local Parks (ADLP)

Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities). Applicants compete for funds on a regional basis.

All Terrain Vehicles (ATV)

Funds are available to provide funds to accommodate all-terrain vehicles through the acquiring, insuring, developing and maintaining of all-terrain vehicle trails and areas, including routes as per s. 23.33, Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities and villages are eligible to apply by April 15 on forms provided by the Department. Up to 100% of costs up to \$125 per mile if ATV trail is available for spring, summer and fall riding. Up to 100% of costs up to \$60 per mile if the trail is available for winter riding opportunity. Up to 50% of the approved eligible costs for maintaining an all-terrain vehicle area. Up to 100% of the approved eligible costs to develop ATV trails and areas. Assistance is provided for the following, in priority order: 1) maintenance of existing approved trails and areas, including routes; 2) purchase of liability insurance; 3) acquisition of easements; 4) major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails; and 5) acquisition of land in fee and development of new trails and areas.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Enforcement Patrol

Funds are available as per s.23.22(9), Wis. Stats. and NR 64.15, Wis. Adm. Code. A county must file a Notice of Intent to Patrol form with the Department on or before July 1 of each year. Claim forms shall be filed with the Department on or before September 1 of the year following the 12-month period for which the claim is made. Notice of Intent to Patrol and Claim forms are provided by the Department Bureau of Law Enforcement. Counties may receive up to 100% of their net costs for the enforcement of ch. 23.33, Wis. Adm. Code, at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of the gross salary. Salaries of officers engaged in the enforcement of Chapter NR 23.33, Wis. Adm. Code, at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of the gross salary. Travel, materials and supplies are reimbursable. Depreciation is calculated at a rate of 12% annually on all equipment over \$100 except ATV's, which is figured at the rate of 20% annually.

Brownfields Green Space and Public Facilities Grant Program

Funds are available per s.292.79, Wis. Stats. to promote the cleanup of brownfields where the end-use has a long-term public benefit, including preservation of green space, development of recreational areas or use by a local government.

Lake Protection Grant

Funds are available to protect and improve the water quality of lakes and their ecosystems as per s. 281.69, Wis. Stats. Grants are available for purchasing land or easements, restoration of wetlands, development of local regulations to protect water quality, lake improvement activities called for in a Department approved plan, and countywide lake classification. Counties, towns, cities, villages, public authorities and qualified lake associations as defined in s. 30.92(1)(br), Wis. Stats., public inland lake districts, non-profit groups, and other local governmental units established for lake management are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. The state cost shares up to 75% of project costs not to exceed \$200,000. Applications are due in the Regional offices by May 1 of each year.

Priorities are set on a statewide basis (see ch. NR 191.08, Wis. Adm. Code) and consider the following factors: 1) lakes which have not previously received a lake protection grant; 2) the degree to which the project provides for the protection or improvement of water quality; 3) the degree to which the project provides for protection or improvement of other aspects of the natural ecosystem such as fish, wildlife or natural beauty; 4) the availability of public access to, and public use of the lakes; 5) the degree to which the proposed project complements other lake and watershed management efforts; 6) the level of support for the project from other affected management units; and 7) the level of financial support provided by the sponsor.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Money is available to encourage nationwide creation and interpretation of high quality outdoor recreational opportunities. The program funds both state and local outdoor recreation projects per Public Law 88-578, ch. NR 50.06, Wis. Adm. Code. Counties, cities, villages, towns, school districts, and Indian tribes are eligible for funding with an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. Up to 50% matching grants from the fund are available to state and local units of government. Priorities include acquisition of land where a scarcity of outdoor recreational land exists. Also, projects that provide access for the greatest number of potential users and provide the greatest opportunities for outdoor recreation are also desirable.

Eligible projects include acquisition of land for public outdoor recreational areas and preservation of water frontage and open space. Development of public outdoor park and recreational areas and their support facilities. Applications are available from the DNR regional Community Service Specialist. Completed applications are due to the appropriate DNR regional office by May 1 of each year.

Recreational Boating Facilities

Funds are available for the construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities as per s. 30.92, Wis. Statutes. Counties, towns, cities, villages, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations are eligible to apply. Cost sharing is provided up to 50% for feasibility studies, construction costs, and certain types of acquisition costs. An additional 10% may be available if a municipality conducts a boating safety enforcement and education program approved by the Department.

Eligible projects include: 1) Facilities such as ramps and service docks required to gain access to the water; 2) structures such as bulkheads and breakwaters necessary to provide safe water conditions for boaters; 3) activities such as dredging to provide safe water depths for recreational boating. (Dredging is an eligible project only when it is associated with project development at the project site; maintenance dredging is not eligible.); 4) support facilities limited to parking lots, sanitary facilities and security lighting; 5) acquisition of equipment to cut and remove aquatic plants; 6) acquisition of equipment to collect and remove floating trash and debris from a waterway; 7) dredging of channels in waterways for recreational boating purposes (not more than once in ten years)(inland waters); and 8) acquisition of aids to navigation and regulatory markers. These factors are considered in establishing priorities - distance of proposed project from other recreational boating facilities, demand for safe boating facilities, existing facilities, projects underway, commitment of funds, location of proposed project within the region identified in s. 25.29(7), Wis. Stats.

River Management Grants

River Protection Management grants provide state cost sharing assistance to eligible sponsors for implementing a specific activity or set of activities, other than planning activities, to protect or improve a river ecosystem as per s. 181.70 Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities, villages, non-profit groups and qualified river management organizations, and other local governmental units as defined in s. 66.0131, Wis. Stats., are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. The state cost shares up to 75% of project costs not to exceed \$50,000. Activities eligible for funding include: 1) purchase of land or of an easement subject to certain requirements, 2) development of local ordinances, and 3) restoration of in-stream or shoreland habitat. Applications are due in the Regional offices by May 1 of each year.

Recreational Trails Act (RTA)

The Recreational Trails Act (RTA) provides funds to local units of government through the transfer of federal gas excise taxes paid on fuel used in off-highway vehicles. These funds are used to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for motorized (30% of RTA funds), non-motorized (30% of RTA funds), and both (40% of RTA funds) types of recreational trail uses. This federal program was reauthorized in 2005 under SAFETEA-LU.

Eligible projects in order of priority are: maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails with certain restrictions on federal lands, and acquisition of easement or property for trails.

Snowmobile Club Signs

Funds are available to provide free cardboard trail signs and reflective material to snowmobile clubs agreeing to open their trails to public use as per s. 23.09(26) and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Funds are limited to no more than \$15,000 per year for the purchase of signs and reflective material. Applications are due in the Region offices by April 15 of each year for the following season.

Snowmobile Route Signs

Funds are available to provide costs for initial signing of snowmobile routes and trail crossing warning signs as per s. 23.09(26) and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Towns, cities, and villages are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. No local match is required, but state funding is limited to no more than \$30,000 per year for the route sign program. Applications are due in the Region offices by April 15 of each year for the following season.

Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols

Funds are available to encourage county snowmobile patrols to function as a law enforcement unit for the enforcement of State Statute 350 as per s. 350.12(4)(a)(4), Wis. Stats. and NR 50.12, 20.370(4)(ft), Wis. Adm. Code. Counties are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Bureau of Law Enforcement. A county must file a Notice of Intent to Patrol form with the Department on or before July 1 of each year. Claim forms shall be filed with the Department on or before June 1 of the year following the 12-month period for which the claim is made. Salaries of officers engaged in the enforcement of ch. 350, Wis. Stats., at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate are eligible. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of the gross salary. Travel, materials and supplies are reimbursable. Depreciation is calculated at a rate of 20% annually on all equipment over \$1,000.

Snowmobile Trail Aids

Funds are available to provide a statewide system of well-signed and well-groomed snowmobile trails for public use and enjoyment as per s. 23.09(26), and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Counties are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. 100% cost sharing is provided with limits on maintenance costs of \$250, and development costs of \$500 per mile. Applications are due in the appropriate Region Office by April 15 of each year. Eligible projects include maintenance of trails, which includes signing, brushing, and grooming of snowmobile trails, purchase of liability insurance and acquisition of short term easements, development of trails which may include general trail construction, bridges, gates and signs, major rehabilitation of existing snowmobile bridges and rehabilitation of existing trail segments

Stewardship Grants for Nonprofit Conservation Organizations

Funds are available for the acquisition of land or easements for conservation purposes, and restoration of wildlife habitat as per s. 23.096, 23.092, 23.094, 23.17, 23.175, and 23.27, Wis. Stats. and NR 51, Wis. Adm. Code. Nonprofit conservation organizations are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match required. Priorities include acquisition of wildlife habitat, acquisition of lands with special scientific or ecological value, rare and endangered habitats and species, acquisition of stream corridors, acquisition of land for state trails including the Ice Age Trail and North Country Trail and restoration of wetlands and grasslands. Eligible types of projects include fee simple and easement acquisitions and habitat restoration projects.

Urban Green Space

Funds are available to provide open natural space in proximity to urban development, to protect from development land with scenic, ecological or natural values in urban areas, and to provide land for noncommercial gardening in urban areas as per s. 23.09(19) Wis. Stats. Counties, Towns, Cities, Villages, lake districts, Indian tribes and nonprofit conservation organizations under s. 23.096 Wis. Stats. are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match required. Applications are due in the appropriate Region office by May 1 of each year.

Urban Rivers Grant

Funds are available to improve outdoor recreation opportunities by increasing access to urban rivers for a variety of public uses, economic revitalization through the improvement of the environmental quality in urban river corridors, and preserving and revitalizing historical, cultural, or natural areas as per s. 30.277, Wis. Stats. Counties, Towns, Cities, Villages, and Tribal units of government are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match required. Applications are due in the Region office by May 1 of each year. Eligible projects include acquisition of urban riverfront land that is part of an outdoor recreation plan adopted by the local unit of government. Land that is specifically identified in a river corridor plan for economic revitalization and outdoor recreation.

Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs

WisDOT Bike & Ped Coordinator
1681 Second Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-4768

Local Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program

Objective: To promote activities which enhance the surface transportation system. Program funds are intended to accomplish something "above and beyond" what is normally done on highway projects. Eligible federal categories include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, historic transportation structures and landscaping/streetscaping projects.

Surface Transportation Program – Discretionary (STP-D)

Objective: To encourage projects that foster alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips, such as facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, development of bicycle/pedestrian plans, purchase of replacement vehicles for transit systems, and other transportation demand management (TDM) projects. Funding is 80% federal; 20% local.

Transportation Enhancement Program

(Part of the Statewide Multi-modal Improvement Program (SMIP))

Program Description: Transportation enhancements (TE) are transportation-related activities that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of transportation systems. The transportation enhancements program provides for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, with examples ranging from the restoration of historic transportation facilities, to bike and pedestrian facilities, to landscaping and scenic beautification, and to the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff. Most of the requests and projects awarded in Wisconsin have been for bicycle facilities. Examples of bicycle projects include multi-use trails (in greenways, former rail trails, etc.), paved shoulders, bike lanes, bicycle route signage, bicycle parking, overpasses/underpasses/bridges, and sidewalks. Transportation enhancement activities must relate to surface transportation. Federal regulations restrict the use of funds on trails that allow motorized users, except snowmobiles. TEA 21 expanded the definition of transportation enhancements eligibility to specifically include the provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists, which had not been clearly eligible under ISTEA.

Other Wisconsin DOT Funding Sources

Hazard Elimination Program - Bicycle and pedestrian projects are now eligible for this program. This program focuses on projects intended for locations that should have a documented history of previous crashes.

Contact WisDOT District coordinators first for more details.

Incidental Improvements - Bicycle and pedestrian projects are broadly eligible for funding from most of the major federal-aid programs. One of the most cost-effective ways of accommodating bicycle and pedestrian accommodations is to incorporate them as part of larger reconstruction, new construction and some repaving projects. Generally, the same source of funding can be used for the bicycle and pedestrian accommodation as is used for the larger highway improvement, if the bike/ped accommodation is “incidental” in scope and cost to the overall project. Overall, most bicycle and pedestrian accommodations within the state are made as incidental improvements.

Federal Assistance Programs

All other federal programs are listed under Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs.

Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) – National Park Service

The purpose of the Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) is intended to increase participation by qualified partners in the preservation and improvement of National Park Service natural, cultural, and recreational resources; in all authorized Service programs and activities; and on national trails. NPS and partners should work together on projects with mutually beneficial, shared outcomes.

The CCSP is a matching fund program. An equal amount of eligible and matching share (minimum 50%) of cash, goods, or services from non-federal sources is required. The maximum CCSP award is \$30,000. Projects selected should generally be able to be completed within one year.

One-third of the CCSP pot is earmarked for National Trails System Projects. Thus supporting work under the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241-51), such as: National Scenic and Historic trails, National Scenic and Historic Trails in parks, National Recreation Trails, and rail-trail projects.

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